



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

MEDIA RELEASE

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**2018 CEW Scholars:
Cricket Australia's Sarah Styles and Aurecon's Louise Adams
head to Wharton**

Chief Executive Women (CEW) announce the winners of two scholarships to the internationally acclaimed Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Sarah Styles, Head of Female Engagement at Cricket Australia and Louise Adams, Aurecon's Regional Director for South Australia and Victoria will attend Wharton's Executive Development Program in September this year.

Announcing the winners, Colleen Harris, CEW's Scholarships Chair says: "CEW's scholarship program aims to help talented women fast-track their careers and improve the representation of women in senior leadership roles."

"Some women make it to positions of leadership and decision making, but not many. For example, only 5% of CEOs in the ASX200 are women. More diversity through female voices at senior leadership levels will deliver better decisions and more equitable outcomes for Australia."

"We are therefore delighted to offer Sarah and Louise the opportunity to sharpen their leadership skills and enrich their experiences at one of the world's leading business schools."

The winners

Sarah Styles is Head of Female Engagement at Cricket Australia, responsible for driving gender equality in Australia's national sport through to the greater inclusion and involvement of women and girls across the full spectrum of cricket. Originally from country Victoria, Sarah is a former investment banker with Macquarie, who also acted as Senior Strategy Advisor at Medibank ahead of its IPO. The opportunity to join Cricket Australia in late 2014 has seen Sarah become a leading advocate for women in sport.

Sarah says: "Sport holds a special place in Australian society, promoting social inclusion and wellness. By its very nature, sport belongs to everyone but has historically been dominated by male participation. I'm determined to drive greater female engagement to enhance not only the experience for girls and women, but for the entire community."

"The Wharton program will help me further elevate my leadership skills and sharpen my strategic decision-making ability – something critically important to both the future of my organisation and to advancing women in sport, and the community."

Louise Adams is Aurecon's Regional Director for South Australia and Victoria, and a Director on Aurecon's Global Board. She is responsible for all elements of people, safety and strategic leadership across three business units, providing multidisciplinary engineering and

infrastructure advisory services for a range of markets. Louise has over 19 years' experience as a Project Manager and Chartered Civil Engineer. Since 2013 Louise has also served as a Director on Aurecon's Global Board, and in 2016 she was nominated as Aurecon's global spokesperson for Women in Leadership.

"My passion is to lead in an industry where each and every person has an equal opportunity to reach their full potential. I see it as both a privilege and obligation to stand up as a role model for young women aspiring to succeed in a male-dominated industry like construction."

"What attracted me to the Wharton program was the opportunity to learn from real-world practitioners about best practice approaches to business and leadership, and how to translate theory into practice from the moment we return to our day to day lives."

The scholarships

The scholarships will enable Sarah and Louise to attend the *Executive Development Program* at The Wharton School in September this year.

The *Executive Development Program* is designed to increase the business skills and leadership capabilities of managers who lead key parts of the business and form the pool of future top leadership of the organisation. It uses a multidimensional approach of lectures, small/large group discussion, case study, role playing, campus networking opportunities, and a strategy simulation to provide new insights and give participants the opportunities to apply them.

The scholarships are part of the 2018 CEW Scholars program, which is providing 18 talented Australian women with the opportunity to take their careers to the next level by supporting executive education at internationally acclaimed business schools.

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About CEW Scholars (www.cew.org.au/scholarships)

The CEW Scholars program enables women leaders by supporting them at critical junctures in their careers, from their first management roles to top executive positions. More than 150 women have been awarded scholarships to business schools in Australia and internationally since CEW commenced its executive program for women leaders in 1992.

CEW Scholars program is funded through the CEW annual dinner and the generosity of sponsors including:

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About Chief Executive Women (www.cew.org.au)

Chief Executive Women is the pre-eminent organisation representing more than 500 of Australia's most senior women from the corporate, public, academic and not-for-profit sectors. Its mission is "women leaders enabling women leaders". Through advocacy, targeted programs and scholarships, CEW works to remove the barriers to women's progression and ensure equal opportunity for prosperity. CEW offers innovative and substantive programs aimed at enabling women's participation and future leadership.

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