



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

20 NOVEMBER 2018

Statement from Chief Executive Women: Women's Economic Security Statement

Chief Executive Women (CEW) welcomes the Government's initiative to develop Australia's first **Women's Economic Security Statement**, announced today by The Hon Kelly O'Dwyer, Minister for Jobs and Industrial Relations and Minister for Women.

The Women's Economic Security package is investing in excess of \$100 million over four years to focus attention and efforts on three core pillars:

- Increasing workforce participation
- Building financial security, resilience and independence and
- Better earning potential

"Improving female workforce participation, enhancing women's economic security and moves to address both the pay gap and the flexibility gap are important initiatives for Australia's future economic success," said Kathryn Fagg, President, Chief Executive Women.

CEW works with organisations to remove the barriers to female progression. We are delighted that the Government, through the Reducing Barriers to Work Forum is also intending to engage with business to accelerate the identification of the systemic barriers to women's workforce participation and generate practical and inclusive solutions.

CEW is also encouraged by the Government's attention to ongoing and practical improvements to flexible working arrangements. The new policy allowing parents to split their parental leave pay into blocks of leave, rather than 18 consecutive weeks, is a good example of the flexibility required, to accommodate both work commitments and personal preferences.

The increased investment to streamline Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) data collection and reduce the burden of red tape for business will further assist and provide appropriate measurement of progress and performance across sectors. This complements the timely reinstatement of the Time Use Survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which also provides organisations with important data and information about working patterns for men and women and will further facilitate the structuring of effective flexible working arrangements.

ENDS

Chief Executive Women is the pre-eminent organisation representing more than 550 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.