



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**2 April 2019**

### **FEDERAL BUDGET 2019–20:**

#### **Are we strengthening our economy for equal prosperity?**

Chief Executive Women (CEW) welcomes the 2019-20 Federal Budget projection of a surplus, and measures that have the potential to stimulate the economy and remove some of the obstacles to women's financial equality and workforce participation. In particular, CEW supports those measures that directly support women to remain in and return to the workforce namely:

- The first ever Women's Economic Security Statement with \$119 million dedicated to measures to give women greater life choices, build financial security and grow the Australian economy.
- Funding to increase the participation of women and girls in STEM.
- Investment in women's safety, \$328 million to fund prevention, response and recovery initiatives.
- Protecting Your Super package which will help to protect the low and inactive superannuation accounts of over one million women.

CEW will continue to urge for measures to further:

- Increase female workforce participation, with its attendant benefits to GDP growth
- Reduce the gaps in financial inequality for women, particularly in superannuation and pay, and
- Make child care more affordable, accessible and flexible to all women and men who participate in the workforce.

In addition, we note that policies that appear gender neutral may have unintended and different impacts between men and women in the way the benefits and burdens of spending and taxes are distributed.

CEW believes that having an economic plan that understands the gender impact of all budget measures is important to ensure that tax, spending and social programs aimed at building a stronger economy work for everyone, including the 50% who are female. Equity and fairness are important outcomes of well-designed economic measures.

ENDS

**About Chief Executive Women ([www.cew.org.au](http://www.cew.org.au))**

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. These include CEW Scholars, the Leaders Program, CEW Connect, Chairman Conversation, CEO Conversations and the Leadership Shadow. CEW's programs are informed by research, led by CEW members, and generously supported by our partners.

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