



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**10 July 2019**

## **2019 CEW Scholar: Jacinta Elston wins scholarship to Harvard**

Chief Executive Women (CEW) in partnership with Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation (RSIEF) announce **Professor Jacinta Elston** as the winner of a scholarship to attend the highly regarded Harvard Kennedy School.

The scholarship, which was offered to middle and senior women managers who are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Heritage, will allow Professor Elston to attend the *Creating Collaborative Solutions* program at Harvard in October.

CEW Scholarships Committee Chair, Colleen Harris, says: "CEW is proud to support talented Indigenous women to hone their leadership skills at one of the world's leading business schools.

"CEW's Scholarships provide opportunities for women to fast-track their careers and improve the representation of women in senior leadership roles in Australia.

"More diversity through female voices at every level of leadership will deliver better decisions and more equitable outcomes for Australia."

Richard Potok, Executive Director of the RSIEF and CEO of the Aurora Education Foundation, says: "These scholarships provide a terrific opportunity for Indigenous women who are leaders in their field to further develop the skills that are essential for leadership success.

"Professor Elston is an outstanding candidate and, as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) at Monash University, the impact of her learnings at Harvard will flow to students, staff and communities. I look forward to continuing to work with Jacinta as she progresses in her career and continues to create positive outcomes for Indigenous Australians," says Richard.

### **The winner**

Professor Jacinta Elston is Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) at Monash University. She and her team provide a focus for engagement in Indigenous scholarship, oversee Indigenous activities, and represent the University externally in central Indigenous matters. She also leads the implementation of the University's 12-year Framework for Indigenous education, which includes the plans to grow Indigenous student enrolments, establish unique Indigenous postgraduate offerings, address graduate knowledge and exposure to indigenous issues in curricula and a plan to grow the number of Indigenous academics, researchers and leaders.

Jacinta, a proud Aboriginal woman from north Queensland, has over twenty-five years of experience in Indigenous health in community-based and academic contexts. She has fifteen years of experience in senior management as a faculty and university leader in higher education, and engagement in national and international Indigenous agendas.

Jacinta says: "I have big ambitions. In my lifetime I want to play a role in bringing about changes that reduce the overrepresentation of 'our mob' in prisons, improve our life expectancy, improve support for women and families in crisis and reduce racism in the everyday lives of our people.

"The experience I gain at Harvard will build my capacity to help lead a shift around many of the critical issues that Indigenous people face".

### **The scholarship**

The CEW and RSIEF scholarship will enable Professor Elston to attend the *Creating Collaborative Solutions: Innovations in Governance* program at Harvard Kennedy School, Boston, Massachusetts, in October this year.

Harvard Kennedy School is a graduate and professional school that brings together students, scholars and practitioners who combine thought and action to make the world a better place.

*Creating Collaborative Solutions* is designed for leaders in the public, non-profit and corporate sectors who see their roles as reaching across these traditionally separate spheres to build new structures that can produce significant, valuable change.

The scholarship is part of the 2019 CEW Scholars program, which is providing 19 talented Australian women with the opportunity to take their careers to the next level by supporting executive education at internationally acclaimed business schools.

### **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.*

#### **About CEW Scholars ([www.cew.org.au/scholarships](http://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. In 2019, 19 scholarships will be offered for talented women to attend leadership courses at international business schools.*

#### **About Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation**

[www.robertasykesfoundation.com](http://www.robertasykesfoundation.com)

In 1983, Roberta Sykes became the first black Australian to graduate from an American university with a PhD in Education from Harvard. She returned to Australia to take up the reins of Black Women's Action in Education, the group that had raised the funds to enable her to attend Harvard. Over the next 15 years, under Roberta's stewardship, Black Women's Action in Education continued to encourage and support Indigenous students to study in Australia and overseas, before being renamed in Roberta's honour in 2008. The Foundation was the first to offer overseas postgraduate scholarships to Indigenous Australians. Roberta died in 2010, but the Foundation has continued her amazing legacy and has supported over 45 Indigenous students in their pursuit of academic achievement.

**CEW Scholars program is funded** through the CEW Annual Dinner and the generosity of sponsors including: PLATINUM SPONSOR: KING & WOOD MALLESONS. OFFICIAL AIRLINE SPONSOR: QANTAS. PREMISES PARTNER: CBRE. GOLD SPONSORS: ANZ, BHP, KPMG, QBE, TELSTRA. SILVER SPONSORS: ALLENS LINKLATERS, AMP,

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