



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**9 July 2019**

## **2019 CEW Scholar: Krista Dunstan wins scholarship to Harvard**

Chief Executive Women (CEW) in partnership with Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation (RSIEF) announce **Krista Dunstan** 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 Krista to attend the *Emerging Leaders* program at Harvard this year.

CEW Scholarships Committee Chair, Colleen Harris, says: "CEW is proud to play a role in supporting talented Indigenous women take the next step in their careers.

"To realise the benefits we know that diversity can deliver, Australia must get a critical mass of women in leadership roles.

"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.

"Krista is a fantastic representative of the emerging generation of Indigenous leaders who are working within their State Government to bring fresh perspectives on ways to collaborate for better outcomes," says Richard.

### **The winner**

Krista Dunstan is Principal Policy Officer, Office of the Director General at the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (WA). She is a Noongar woman from Esperance, Western Australia.

Krista provides strategic policy guidance on land use management projects. She currently leads two key projects: the divestment of the State's Aboriginal Lands Trust Estate, which is granting tenure as a pathway to economic development for town-based reserves and remote communities and supporting the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Aboriginal Policy and Coordination Unit in the development of State policy on Native Title.

Krista says: "For Aboriginal peoples to develop and drive the economic opportunities that create real and lasting change, we need well-equipped leaders who understand the cultural, public and corporate sectors.

“One of the most exciting things about this course is the opportunity for cross-pollination of ideas from these different viewpoints.

“I have a non-traditional perspective on the options available to government. This course will equip me with the skills I need to create win-win scenarios for the State and our community.”

### **The scholarship**

The CEW and RSIEF scholarship will enable Krista to attend the *Emerging Leaders* program at Harvard Kennedy School, Boston, Massachusetts, in October this year.

The Harvard Kennedy School's *Emerging Leaders* program brings together renowned Harvard faculty and an international cohort of rising professionals for an empowering and energising week of learning. Participants will gain the skills and strategic frameworks necessary to capitalise on opportunities and overcome obstacles, returning home inspired to enact change in their country.

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, ASHURST, BCG, COMMONWEALTH BANK, CELLARMASTERS, EGON ZEHNDER, EY, GILBERT + TOBIN, GPT, HARVEY NORMAN, HEIDRICK & STRUGGLES, IAG, LENDLEASE,

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