



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

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2019 CEW Scholars: Hilary Goodier and Sharmila Tsourdalakis are bound for Harvard

Chief Executive Women (CEW) announce the winners of two scholarships to study *Disruptive Innovation: Strategies for a Successful Enterprise* at Harvard Business School.

Hilary Goodier, Director of Herbert Smith Freehills' Alternative Legal Services business and Sharmila Tsourdalakis, Executive General Manager, Banking & Wealth Technology at Suncorp Group, will attend the highly regarded Harvard program in October this year.

Announcing the winners, CEW Scholarships Committee Chair, Colleen Harris, says:
"Mastering innovation is a critical skill for leaders in the 21st century.

"These scholarships will help Hilary and Sharmila take their knowledge of disruptive innovation to a whole new level.

"Acquiring the right skills at the right time can make all the difference in the careers of talented executive women.

"CEW's scholarship program supports women leaders by providing opportunities to hone their skills at some of the world's top international business schools."

The winners

Hilary Goodier is Director of Herbert Smith Freehills' Alternative Legal Services business (ALT) in Australia and Director of its Global Technology practice. She manages a team of 140 analysts, lawyers and technologists across four offices in Australia. Hilary was named 'Innovator of the Year' in the Lawyer's Weekly 2019 Partner of the Year Awards.

Before leaving the law to pursue a commercial career, Hilary was Partner at a major national firm. More than half of her 20-year career has been in senior management roles, including eight years with international IT companies such as Infosys, IBM and NTT Data.

Hilary says: "In a profession that is only at the beginning of its technology change journey, I'd like to be one of the leaders of that change.

"The Harvard course will supplement my passion, interest and aptitude for innovation with formal specialist learning that I can apply to both my firm and the profession."

Sharmila Tsourdalakis is Executive General Manager, Banking & Wealth Technology at Suncorp Group. She is responsible for the strategic direction and operational leadership of technology in the Banking & Wealth business and heads a team of approximately 400 people in Australia and India.

Sharmila has over 21 years of technology and business management experience across a variety of industries. Before her role at Suncorp, she was Chief Information Officer for commercial real estate company GPT Group.

Sharmila says: "In an evolving market, technology is fundamentally changing the way businesses operate and enabling new product offerings. Attending Harvard is an amazing opportunity and will cement my professional learning, strategic thinking, as well as broaden my capability across disruptive innovation.

"The program will also underpin future opportunities as we explore closer collaboration with fintech start-ups in Queensland and aim to foster innovation in the financial services industry."

The scholarships

The scholarships enable Hilary and Sharmila to study *Disruptive Innovation: Strategies for a Successful Enterprise* at Harvard Business School in 2019.

The program takes a hard look at some of the world's most successful disruptors, their strategies, successes and failures and hones participants' capacity to predict how industries, technologies and competitive forces may affect their organisations.

The scholarships are part of the 2019 CEW Scholars program, which is helping 20 talented Australian women take their careers to the next level by providing opportunities to study at internationally acclaimed business schools.

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About Chief Executive Women (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)

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 170 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, 20 scholarships will be offered for talented women to attend leadership courses at international business schools.

CEW Scholars program is funded through the CEW Annual Dinner and the generosity of sponsors including:

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For further information, please contact: Lisa Jervis 0491 217 564, lisa@cew.org.au