



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

Sunday 2 May 2021

MEDIA RELEASE

CEW welcomes Federal Government's childcare announcement as positive step to increase women's workforce participation

Chief Executive Women (CEW) today welcomed the Federal Treasurer's funding announcement to increase access to childcare as an important step towards helping more women participate in the workforce.

CEW has long advocated for greater accessibility to affordable childcare to enable greater workforce participation for women.

CEW President Sam Mostyn said the cost of childcare is a significant barrier for women returning to work and their career progression.

"We welcome today's announcement as an important initial step towards more women participating in the workforce and as a smart investment in the future use of the entire talent pool across the country," said Ms Mostyn.

"As KPMG research has shown, investments like this make sense. By increasing women's workforce participation by just 5 per cent, Australia's annual real GDP would increase by \$60 billion over 20 years.

"We look forward to seeing more announcements as part of the upcoming budget to focus on women's economic participation and safety in the budget.

"CEW has been just one of many voices advocating for and working together to call for improved access to affordable early childhood education and care. There is no better time to make some fundamental shifts in policy to grasp this opportunity," she said.

CEW Member and former CEW President Sue Morphet said, "For families who have been doing it tough, this will be an important step to increase their capacity to participate in the workforce. However, there will continue to be the need to consider the low-income family threshold to ensure even families on minimum wages and with one child in childcare can benefit."

In addition to enabling women's workforce participation through accessible Early Childhood Education and Care, other priorities outlined by CEW in its [Pre-Budget Submission](#) include:

- Investment in jobs for women and female-dominated industries.

- Strengthening women’s economic security into retirement.
- Reforming paid parental leave.
- Investing in women’s safety and wellbeing.
- Embedding a gender lens in the budget and policy process and ensuring gender balance in decision-making.

ENDS

Media Contact:

Rachel McCormack – 0423 407 189, rachel.mccormack@newgatecomms.com.au

About Chief Executive Women www.cew.org.au

Founded in 1985, Chief Executive Women (CEW) now represents over 640 of Australia’s most senior and distinguished women leaders across business, academia, government, the arts and not-for-profit sectors. Our shared mission is ‘women leaders enabling other women leaders’.

We strive to educate and influence all levels of Australian business and government on the importance of gender balance. Through advocacy, targeted programs and scholarships, CEW works to remove the barriers to women’s progression and ensure equal opportunity for prosperity.

CEW’s members work actively to realise our vision of a community where women and men have equal economic and social choices and responsibilities.