



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

## **CEW celebrates National Reconciliation Week**

**31 May 2017**

Chief Executive Women (CEW) supports initiatives that celebrate and strive for inclusion and respect. 2017 marks several significant anniversaries in Australia's path to reconciliation, including the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1967 referendum that saw more than 90 per cent of Australians vote to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the census and allow the Commonwealth to create laws for them. It is also 20 years since the Bringing Them Home report and 25 years since the Mabo decision.

Tanya Hosch, CEW member and General Manager, Inclusion and Social Policy for AFL says "I am a recipient of the benefits that came from that amazing moment where almost 91 per cent of Australians found agreement on the inclusion of counting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the census and importantly, placing the jurisdiction of laws from the States into the Commonwealth. It's an important reminder to me that people power can create hard fought, courageous change".

CEW member and former CEO of Reconciliation Australia Leah Armstrong, believes the anniversary of the 1967 referendum marks an important milestone in our efforts to build a reconciled Australia.

"Reconciliation is not an Aboriginal problem, it is an Australian problem. It involves all of us", says Ms Armstrong.

Acknowledging the important role that generations of women have and will continue to have in reconciliation, Ms Armstrong says, "I believe women can play a vital role in ensuring our nation does not repeat the wrongs of the past and fail another generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"Young women can take the next step in building a reconciled Australia by supporting initiatives that raise Aboriginal women and girls' aspirations, and initiatives which inspire women and girls to imagine a future for themselves beyond their socio-economic constraints. Investing in Aboriginal women and girls is not only the right thing to do but for our children and our nation, it is necessary to do."

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