



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**4 October 2017**

## **2017 CEW Scholars to Wharton: Leigh O'Neill (NAB) and Jo Dooley (SEEK)**

Chief Executive Women (CEW) welcomes home two winners of CEW Scholarships who have recently attended The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

National Australia Bank's Leigh O'Neill and SEEK'S Jo Dooley completed the two-week Executive Development Program at Wharton in September this year.

Jo and Leigh follow three other accomplished Australian women who have completed the prestigious Executive Development Program at The Wharton School as CEW Scholars: BHP's Jacqui McGill in 2016; HVCC's Kirsten Molloy in 2015; QGC's Cecilia Wake in 2014.

Congratulating the 2017 winners, President of CEW, Kathryn Fagg, said CEW is proud to provide scholarships for talented women to build their leadership skills, enrich their experiences and advance their careers.

"Women hold 21% of ASX200 Executive Leadership positions in 2017. The aim of CEW's Scholarship Program is to provide opportunities to fast-track talented women and improve the representation of women in leadership roles in Australia," said Kathryn Fagg.

"Taking part in the Executive Development Program at Wharton as a CEW scholar was a privilege. I now have a new network of skilled peers and feel inspired by the insights from the faculty and the learning from other industries and geographies. I am truly grateful to CEW for giving me the amazing opportunity, and look forward to paying it forward within our business community and supporting other women," said Leigh O'Neill.

"Learning new concepts together with 55 executives from 17 countries at Wharton was a great opportunity to challenge my own thinking and approach especially in negotiation and decision making. In order to be successful and respond to change, we all need to be infinite learners and make ourselves more adaptable. Wharton helped me to reflect on the fact that we can't rely solely on our previous expertise in solving future problems - but we need to keep learning, unlearning and relearning.

I can see immediately how this course will really help my overall effectiveness as a leader, and prepare me well for more complex roles in the future. I sincerely wish to acknowledge CEW and the companies that support CEW, for this tremendous opportunity and I look forward to continuing to help other women in their careers - particularly in the tech sector," said Jo Dooley.

### **About the Scholars**

#### **Leigh O'Neill - NAB**

Leigh O'Neill, is Executive General Manager, Business Direct and Small Business, National Australia Bank. Leigh has more than 15 years' experience in financial services across the UK, US and Australia.

She is currently Chair of contemporary dance company Chunky Move and a Director on Melbourne Theatre Company's Foundation Board.

#### **Jo Dooley - SEEK**

Jo Dooley is Director Client Services for SEEK Employment, Australia and New Zealand and has over 20 years' experience in the tech/digital sector.

Jo is on the Victorian Advisory Board for the Starlight Children's Foundation, and is a strong advocate for mental health, young people and diversity in leadership.

### **About the Scholarship**

Leigh and Jo participated in the Executive Development Program at The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, as 2017 CEW Scholars. Wharton is recognised globally for intellectual leadership and ongoing innovation across every major discipline of business education.

The Executive Development Program at Wharton is designed to increase the business skills and leadership capabilities of managers who lead key parts of the business and form the pool of future top leadership of the organisation. It uses a multidimensional approach of lectures, small/large group discussion, case study, role-playing, campus networking opportunities, and a strategy simulation to provide new insights and give participants the opportunities to apply them.

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#### **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.

#### ***CEW Scholars program is funded through the CEW annual dinner and the generosity of sponsors including:***

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***About Chief Executive Women ([www.cew.org.au](http://www.cew.org.au))***

Chief Executive Women is the pre-eminent organisation representing more than 420 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. CEW offers innovative and substantive programs aimed at enabling women's participation and future leadership.

***For further information, please contact:***

Lisa Jervis 0491 217 564, [lisa@cew.org.au](mailto:lisa@cew.org.au)