



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**12 APRIL 2017**

**2017 CEW Scholars:  
Linda Soars (NSWHealth) and Dr Kate Liley (Goodstart)  
head to AGSM @ UNSW**

Chief Executive Women (CEW) today announced Dr Kate Liley (Goodstart Early Learning) and Linda Soars (NSW Health) as the winners of two scholarships to attend AGSM's Women in Leadership Program at the UNSW Business School.

Offered in partnership with the AGSM @ UNSW Business School, the scholarships are part of the CEW Scholars program, which helps talented Australian women take their careers to the next level.

Announcing the winners, Belinda Gibson, Chairman CEW Scholarships Committee said: "CEW has an extensive program of scholarships for future leaders. Our experience is that the leadership courses and study programs quickly provide CEW Scholars with greater capability, credibility and confidence."

"As we enter our 41st year, AGSM continues to support leaders in building career capital, increasing confidence, and owning their space in both commercial and social impact," said Frank Kennedy, Director AGSM Relationships and Business Development Cluster.

"The impact of leadership is the most rewarding when it is executed in the context of a greater purpose and we are seeing young leaders embracing greater purpose very early in their careers. AGSM seeks to reduce barriers to accessing higher education and we are proud to support women leaders through scholarships such as the CEW Scholarship program. Australia, Australian businesses and the global community benefits from diversity at the C-Suite and Board level of enterprise and community associations."

**The winners**

**Dr Kate Liley** is National Research Manager for Goodstart Early Learning, Australia's largest not-for-profit provider of early learning and care. Dr Liley leads Goodstart's

portfolio of commissioned and collaborative research and evaluation, to strengthen the evidence base for policy, high quality practice, and child and family outcomes.

Dr Liley has 10 years' experience in research management in the public and not for profit sectors. She sees participation in the program at AGSM as an opportunity to access an expanded range of leadership techniques to support Goodstart's social purpose goals.

"Bringing back adaptive leadership skills that support change management and organisational culture will enhance my contribution to Goodstart. I am also really looking forward to the opportunity to learn, practice and network with a cross sector cohort of professionals," said Dr Liley.

**Linda Soars** is the Director of Integration Partnerships and Enablers at Western Sydney Local Health District, NSW Health. Linda leads a team of 60 staff at the Western Sydney Demonstrator site for the NSW Integrated Care Program building new models of health care for people with long term health conditions.

Linda's long career as a Nurse Consultant has enabled her to build on clinical strengths and management expertise to initiate clinical redesign processes. She expects her participation in Women in Leadership at AGSM @ UNSW will accelerate her executive development and leadership capability.

"Participating in the leadership program will sharpen my strategic mindset and assist me in the development of robust equity and access plans to better tackle the issues in our sector," said Linda Soars.

### **The scholarships**

The scholarships will enable Dr Kate Liley and Linda Soars to participate in the AGSM Women in Leadership Program at the UNSW Business School, commencing in May 2017.

The Women in Leadership Program attracts a dynamic group of business women from a variety of industries and sectors including private, not-for-profit and government. The four month transformational program focuses on growing leadership skills to help participants achieve positive outcomes for themselves and their organisation.

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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 120 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:***

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