



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

MEDIA RELEASE

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2018 CEW Scholar: Dr Bridie O'Donnell (Office for Women in Sport and Recreation) heads to Harvard

Chief Executive Women (CEW) announces the winner of a scholarship to attend the prestigious *Authentic Leader Development* program at Harvard Business School in July.

The winner of this year's CEW Scholarship to Harvard is Bridie O'Donnell, Head of Victoria's Office for Women in Sport and Recreation.

CEW Scholarships Committee Member, Karen Moses, says "We are delighted to offer Bridie the opportunity to attend a leadership program at one of the world's top business schools."

"CEW is proud to provide scholarships for talented women to sharpen their leadership skills, enrich their experiences and advance their careers.

"CEW's Scholarship Program aims to provide opportunities to fast-track the careers of talented women and improve the representation of women in senior leadership roles in Australia".

The winner

Bridie O'Donnell is the inaugural Head of Office for Women in Sport and Recreation. The Office, which was created by the Victorian Government in 2017 in response to the Inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Recreation, is the first of its kind in Australia.

Her role is to work within government and externally with multiple sport sector stakeholders to achieve a level playing field for women and girls across all levels of sport and active recreation in Victoria.

Bridie, who is a trained medical doctor and a former Australian road cycling champion, believes the *Authentic Leader Development* program at Harvard will help her to deliver on the objectives of the Office.

"The program will foster the focus and agency I need to bring my lived experience as a physician and elite athlete to the task of devising policy for the Office that will ensure a steady path to gender equality in sport.

“I was never immediately ‘successful’ at the commencement of any of my ventures, and ultimately achieved my goals through determination, self-assessment and advice. This program will help my development as a woman who can provide the same professional support to other women through my values, behaviours and my position as a respected public servant,” says Bridie.

The scholarship

The CEW scholarship enables Bridie to attend the *Authentic Leadership Development* program at Harvard Business School, Boston Massachusetts in July this year.

The program aims to help leaders uncover the unique characteristics that comprise their authentic leadership – enabling them to become the type of leader they most admire.

During the intensive and often confronting 5-day program, HBS professors and top leadership experts guide participants through a profoundly personal exploration, during which they design a leadership approach driven by their most deeply held values.

The scholarship is part of the CEW Scholars program, which helps talented Australia women take their careers to the next level by supporting executive education at internationally acclaimed business schools.

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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 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)

Chief Executive Women is the pre-eminent organisation representing more than 500 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.

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