



Media Release

DISTINGUISHED AUSTRALIAN WOMEN GATHER TO SUPPORT NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN LEADERS

27 March 2014: An innovative, evidence-based women's leadership program will be launched tonight by the Honourable Gai Brodtmann MP at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra.

An initiative of the YWCA of Canberra, *She Leads* is comprised of a year-long Diploma of Management tailored specifically to women leaders, and a one-day conference.

The *She Leads* launch event will also be attended by award-winning journalist, Sophie McNeill who will share her incredible leadership story, and Executive Director of the YWCA of Canberra, Frances Crimmins who will announce the details of the program.

The inaugural *She Leads Conference* will take place on Tuesday 13 May at Hotel Realm with 200 delegates. The event will feature a line up of renowned Australian women including author, journalist and pioneering Feminist, Anne Summers, Executive Director of UN Women Australia, Julie McKay, and Deputy Secretary Defence People in the Department of Defence, Carmel McGregor.

Ms Crimmins said that *She Leads* addresses an important need in the community, by providing a safe space for participants to explore their leadership potential, and to learn about the unique challenges faced by women leaders.

"Some women tell us that they haven't come across discrimination in their workplace, which is welcome news. But unfortunately, current research shows that women are significantly under-represented in the top echelons of most industries.

"According to the Australian Census of Women in Leadership, women hold only 9.2% of key management positions in the top 500 publicly listed companies in Australia."

Ms Crimmins said that while the focus of the program is to develop young women's leadership potential, the Conference and Diploma will engage women from across the age spectrum.

"At the YWCA of Canberra we believe that leadership should be transformational and intergenerational. This year, we have drawn on our national networks to develop a program featuring outstanding women leaders who will inspire, motivate, and challenge delegates, be they aspiring, emerging or established leaders."

Tickets for the *She Leads Conference* will go on sale at 7pm today and can be purchased at www.ywca-canberra.org.au.

Expressions of interest in the *She Leads Diploma of Management* can be directed alison.barclay@ywca-canberra.org.au.

Frances Crimmins is available for interview.

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About the YWCA of Canberra: The YWCA of Canberra is a feminist, not-for-profit organisation that has been providing community services and representing women's issues in the Canberra community since its establishment in 1929. The YWCA of Canberra employs more than 350 staff across the ACT, and delivers 30 quality programs in children's services, community development, housing, youth services, women's leadership, advocacy, and training. Represented in 122 countries, the YWCA has a global reach of 25 million women and girls. As part of this international movement, the YWCA of Canberra works for a world where reconciliation, justice, peace, health, human dignity, freedom and care for the environment are promoted and sustained through women's leadership. For more information visit: www.ywca-canberra.org.au

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