



YWCA  
CANBERRA

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **YWCA CANBERRA LEADING THE WAY FOR EMPLOYERS ON GENDER EQUALITY**

**5 November 2015:** For the second consecutive year, YWCA Canberra is honoured to achieve a citation as an Employer of Choice from the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA).

It is one of only two Canberra organisations to achieve this prestigious citation.

The citations are awarded to employers that recognise gender equality as a top priority and embed policies and practices within their organisations to advance equal opportunities for women.

Executive Director Frances Crimmins is passionate about leading change for women and also works to promote gender equality through her role as a WGEA Pay Equity Ambassador.

“Gender equality is at the core of what we do. Our purpose is to empower women and girls and our work in providing community services, quality training, early childhood services and advocacy underpin this mission.

“WGEA recognises that it’s not enough for employers to simply state that they are committed to gender equality. We have to walk the talk, and demonstrate exactly how we have implemented policies to make a difference.”

With a diverse staff of approximately 250 working across 30 programs, YWCA Canberra has a range of policies in place to promote gender equality, including domestic violence leave, parental leave options and flexible work arrangements.

Only 90 organisations nationwide have been recognised by WGEA, with just two of those from Canberra – YWCA Canberra and the University of Canberra.

“It is now widely recognised that gender equality is essential to an organisations’ success. Leaders need to advocate for gender equality, but also set a clear expectation for all to follow,” Ms Crimmins said.

Successful organisations must fulfil extremely stringent selection criteria including an organisation-wide staff survey. The criteria were strengthened in the 2015 application process.

YWCA Canberra congratulates all other citation recipients, and WGEA for promoting gender equality among Australian employers.

- ENDS -

**Frances Crimmins is available for interview.**

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**About YWCA Canberra:** YWCA Canberra is a feminist, not-for-profit community organisation that has been providing community services and representing women's issues in the Canberra community since its establishment in 1929. YWCA Canberra employs more than 300 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, YWCA 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](http://www.ywca-canberra.org.au)

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