



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **CANBERRA WOMEN CONVERGE TO CHALLENGE BARRIERS, DISPEL DOUBT, AND PURSUE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT THE 2017 SHE LEADS CONFERENCE**

**EMBARGOED 7:00 am Thursday June 1 2017**

**29 May 2017:** An award-winning advocate for Deaf people, the CEO of the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute, and a Captain of the Australian Defence Force are just a few of the high calibre women speakers who will feature at the 2017 She Leads Conference, to be held at QT Canberra on 1 June 2017.

Hosted by YWCA Canberra, a feminist, not-for-profit organisation, the Conference will bring more than 200 women from a range of sectors together with Australia's most inspiring women leaders for a day of empowerment, skills development, and networking.

Tracey Spicer will MC the Conference, joining speakers including feminist writer and thinker, Clementine Ford, Indigenous writer and actor, Nakkiah Lui, Human Rights Campaign Director at GetUp!, Shen Narayanasamy, and 2016 ACT Telstra Young Businesswoman of the Year, Myfanwy Galloway.

Frances Crimmins, Executive Director of YWCA Canberra says she is delighted to bring a diverse range of women together to share thought-provoking stories, and practical advice for overcoming professional and personal barriers to leadership.

"Empowering women and young women to develop their leadership potential and participate in decision making processes is crucial to achieving gender equality." Ms Crimmins said.

"At YWCA Canberra, our vision is 'Women shaping our communities'. We believe women's unique perspectives and experiences must be heard, and that our community will benefit from women's contribution to leadership.

"This year's theme '*Challenge*' presents an important opportunity to consider some of the ways that women are still experiencing underrepresentation, exclusion and inequality, and come up with tangible strategies to overcome these issues in our homes, workplaces and communities."

Now in its fourth year, the Conference caters to women from all sectors and at all stages of their careers, from the ACT and beyond.

Defence Force Recruiting is the Principal Supporter for the She Leads Conference. The event is also supported by Hays Recruiting as She Leads Champions, Women's Agenda as Online Partner, Capital Chemist, The National Australia Day Council and the CBR Innovation

Network as She Leads Friends, and Westpac and the National Council of Women as Scholarships Partners.

The full program, speaker lineup, and other event details can be found at <https://events.bizzabo.com/204089>.

-ENDS-

**Interviews can be arranged with speakers, and YWCA Canberra Executive Director Frances Crimmins.**

**Limited media passes available upon request.**

**Media contact: Eliza Hughes, 0429 210 881.**

**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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