

Australian business leaders assemble on gender equality

Tuesday, 25 August 2015: The Male Champions of Change will today meet with more than 750 leaders sharing their experience in how stepping up next to women on gender equality has the potential to create significant opportunities for Australian workplaces.

With close to 100 chief executives crowding the room, the event will set the tone for the national workplace gender equality discussion for years to come.

Elizabeth Broderick, Sex Discrimination Commissioner, said: “Now in its fifth year, the Founding Male Champions of Change are our trailblazers for gender equality. They will gather today to demonstrate that there is an unprecedented understanding of the need to increase women’s leadership and that the benefits of these opportunities not only apply to women, but to men, society and the bottom line.”

Ian Narev, Commonwealth Bank CEO and Male Champion of Change, said: “Gender equality is critical for the success of our businesses, and for the productivity of our economy as a whole. We have made some good progress, but much more still needs to be done. We need to be persistent in executing the initiatives to which we have committed thus far, as well as listening well to new ideas. And ultimately, we need to be guided by a moral belief that gender equality, along with other aspects of diversity and inclusion, is a social imperative. Success depends on avoiding stereotyped roles for men and women, and enabling genuine freedom of choice.”

The MCC’s will share their experiences on stage in a series of presentations. Among those will be CBA’s Ian Narev, Telstra’s Andrew Penn, Former Head of IBM and Non-Executive Director Andrew Stevens, Head of the Australian Securities Exchange Elmer Funke Kupper and Lt. General David Morrison (retired.).

“The Male Champions believe these actions have the potential to achieve significant and sustainable improvements in the representation of women in leadership. All actions were developed in partnership with women – experts, groups and indeed the MCCs own employees,” said Ms Broderick.

“I’m thrilled to see the expansion of the Founding group’s impact with representatives from other MCC groups – from the Property Sector, Elite Sports, Architecture Industry and a group based in the State of Victoria,” said Ms Broderick.

The Male Champions of Change first came together in 2010. The group comprises Chief Executive Officers, Australian Government department heads and non-executive directors from a range of major businesses and government and is the only group of its kind in the world.

A series of videos, under the theme of *Step Up Together*, will also be released at today’s event. Materials are available at www.malechampionsofchange.com

For more information please contact:

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NB: Commonwealth Bank is hosting the event on behalf of Male Champions of Change