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MEDIA RELEASE

Leaders report advancements in transformative year for gender equality

Members of the Victorian-based Male Champions of Change (MCC) National group (established in 2015) have achieved gender balance or progress towards balance in 83% of organisational leadership categories assessed by the group, up from 63% in 2016.

The result features in the group's Progress Report 2017, released today, which details organisational and collective action to advance gender equality. The 23-member group (see page 2) has also:

- Committed to address gender pay gaps in their organisations.
- Developed and shared practical actions leaders can take to identify and eradicate everyday sexism in the workplace.
- Commenced critical work to tackle organisational contributors to women's low retirement savings. This includes reducing the financial impact of caring and encouraging more sharing of responsibilities, for example, by enabling and supporting partners to take parental leave.

Australian Sex Discrimination Commissioner and group Convenor Kate Jenkins said this is a transformative period for gender-related issues, where the cultures and behaviours that drive gender inequality are now at the forefront of community and business conversation.

"This current environment has put the spotlight on the importance of leadership and the 2015 Male Champions of Change recognise the critical role they play within their organisations and the public sphere.

"Looking ahead, the group is focused on issues such as advancing women's economic security and sexual harassment prevention and response strategies," according to Commissioner Jenkins.

Gender equality advancements within specific MCC organisations over 2017 included:

- Australian Super signalled its intent to vote against single-sex boards, recognising the significant body of evidence showing that diverse boards are more effective.
- The launch of the NAB AFL Women's Competition, empowering women to compete at the highest level in a sport they love, while elevating a new generation of female role models.
- Australia Post now offers free mail redirection and PO Boxes to victims of domestic and family violence.
- NAB launched a Social Bond enabling investors to direct their investments to organisations that share aspirations for gender equality.

The *MCC National est. 2015* group includes members from public, private and not-for-profit organisations. Their reach extends across 130,000 employees, customers and communities throughout Victoria, Australia and internationally.

For more information please contact:

Progress Report 2017 is available at <http://malechampionsofchange.com/mcc-national-est2015-progress-report-2017/>

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The current MCC National est. 2015 members include:

Male Champion of Change	Organsation
Graham Ashton Chief Commissioner	Victoria Police
Ken Barton Chief Executive Officer/Chief Financial Officer	Crown Digital/Crown Resorts
John Bradley Secretary	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Rowen Craigie Non-executive Director	
John Dewar Vice Chancellor	La Trobe University
Craig Drummond Managing Director and CEO	Medibank
Chris Eccles Secretary	Department of Premier and Cabinet
Ahmed Fahour Non-executive Director	
James Fazzino Chair	Manufacturing Australia
Adam Fennessy Partner	EY
Tony Frencham Group Managing Director	WorleyParsons
Nicolas Gindt Chief Executive Officer	Yarra Trams
Doug Hilton Director	The Walter + Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research
Damon Johnston Editor	Herald Sun
Brian Kruger Non-executive Director	
Chris Maxwell AC President, Court of Appeal	Supreme Court of Victoria
Gillon McLachlan Chief Executive Officer	AFL
Ben Rimmer Chief Executive Officer	City of Melbourne
George Savvides Non-executive Director	
Luke Sayers Chief Executive Officer	PwC
Ian Silk Chief Executive Officer	Australian Super
Andrew Thorburn Chief Executive Officer	National Australia Bank
Louis Vega President Dow Australia and NZ and Vice President, Olympic & Sports Solutions	Dow Chemical