

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 25th June, 2018

2018 Woman of the West to speak at AICD's Women's Lunch

Today the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) will host the Women's Lunch: Leadership Journeys' from 1:00pm – 3pm at Pier One Walsh Bay, Sydney.

The lunch will feature keynote speaker and 2018 Woman of the West award recipient, Cynthia Payne MAICD, and will focus on challenges that women face on their leadership journey and look at ways to overcome them.

The AICD provides professional development and networking opportunities for senior executives and directors, supporting them in confronting the challenges they face as business leaders and board members. As well as delivering meaningful programs to the director community across business, government and the not-for-profit sector, the AICD aims to positively impact society and the economy through governance education and advocacy.

A passionate advocate for women in business and leadership, Payne is a proud Western Sydney-sider who grew up and went to school in various Western suburbs including: Parramatta, Minto and Merrylands before studying nursing at the University of Sydney. For the past 14 years, Payne has been a lead mentor for University of Western Sydney's Lucy Mentoring Program, which enables young women moving into male-dominated career pathways to connect with a Mentor.

In 2002 at the age of 32, Payne became the first female CEO of aged care provider SummitCare at a time where a young female CEO was almost unheard of. Payne faced a huge challenge of navigating a complex and growing industry, however during her time as CEO she was instrumental in the financial success of SummitCare, which saw revenue increase from \$37M to \$90M in just 15 years with six of its 11 services based in Sydney's West.

Payne is currently the National Director of the Heart Foundation and immediate Chair of the Leading Age Services Australia (LASA) NSW/ACT Member Advisory Group.

'We are pleased to be able to host this Women's Lunch and give members and non-members the opportunity to learn and gain insights from a leading businesswoman. The AICD is committed to delivering innovative, tailor-made training and networking opportunities which cater to the needs of our region,' said Duane Findley, State Manager, New South Wales, AICD.

Payne will also explore key challenges and successes through the female lens and provide insight into what management, leadership and strategic skills are needed to lead a business.

Payne believes that women need to showcase their background and achievements to encourage other women to be confident and proud of their own successes.

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“I have met so many talented women in the West through the Lucy Mentoring Program and I really try to focus on helping them understand what it means to a female executive in today’s world and help create a pathway of success for them,” said Payne.

“Having these skills will not only help them get a seat at the table but help them own that seat and have the confidence to do it well,” added Payne.

For any enquiries about NSW events and courses, please contact Duane Findley on 02 8248 8429 or nsw@aicd.com.au.

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