

MEDIA RELEASE

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AICD's Director Pipeline Program in the ACT paves the way for increased diversity on boards

The Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) has been overwhelmed by the response to its Director Pipeline Program which was launched in July 2019 in the ACT.

The program aims to create a more diverse field of candidates for director and board roles in the ACT in all sectors including public, private and not-for-profit organisations. It includes skills development workshops, networking events and the opportunity to meet potential mentors. The program aligns with AICD's vision of strengthening society through world-class governance and the ACT Government's commitment to Board diversity.

Commenting on the response, Suzanne Schultz FAICD, AICD ACT Manager, said, "The participants in the program cover all aspects of diversity including age, gender, skill sets and ethnicity. Improving the diversity of representation on boards enhances the decision-making process and ensures that the views of our communities are more likely to be heard."

The AICD also delivers the ACT Government-funded Audrey Fagan Board Directorship program that provides Canberra women with the skills to pursue their directorship careers. This program supports the ACT Government's commitment to improve diversity on ACT Government boards and agencies. The results have been excellent with 48 per cent representation of women across ACT Government boards and committees.

The ACT Government's Office for Women oversees a range of programs dedicated to providing leadership opportunities for women. Working with the AICD on its Director Pipeline program complements the government's efforts to build diversity, capacity and succession in boards in the ACT.

Minister for Women, Yvette Berry said, "The ACT Diversity Register is an important platform that was developed to address the deficit of women and people with diverse experiences on boards and committees."

"One year after launching in July 2018, over 1000 people were registered to be matched with board vacancies. The register enables the government to make gender equality a reality," Minister Berry said.

Zoe Piper GAICD is a recent beneficiary of the AICD program. Following her acceptance into the AICD's Director Pipeline Program, Piper was successfully elected to the AICD ACT Division Council. She praises the program's mentoring and

networking elements which can provide support to candidates and increase access to opportunities.

At the CSIRO, Piper leads the development of the Expert Connect platform, a key feature of which is a filter designed to improve diversity by making it easier for industry to find women with relevant expertise.

“Having worked in male-dominated industries such as manufacturing, technology and investment, I’m passionate about improving diversity on boards and the positive outcomes it creates in terms of business performance,” she said.

Anne-Marie Perret GAICD, AICD President ACT Division Council, is also actively involved in the program. With a background in law and finance with board experience spanning not-for-profit, private and public sectors, Perret is an angel investor, a highly-regarded R&D funding expert and is currently a Director of ACT Rugby Union, Canberra Glassworks and Capital Angels (to name but a few of her roles).

She is committed to improving diversity at board level including age, gender, culture, and also the skill sets which are essential in entrepreneurial and innovative industries. Having started out with her first board role in the not-for-profit sector, Perret firmly believes future directors should start early on their board career, undertake training and focus on connecting with others to make them aware of their interest.

For those wishing to embark on a directorship career, AICD ACT is holding an information session on its *Foundations of Directorship* and *Company Directors Courses* at 4.15pm on Tuesday 21 January. For further information or to register click [here](#).

ENDS

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