

18 June 2021

MEDIA RELEASE

INAUGURAL CHAIR APPOINTED TO AGED CARE WORKFORCE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

The Aged Care Workforce Industry Council has appointed Libby Lyons as its inaugural independent Chair. The former Director of the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) will lead the Council in delivering workforce reform for the aged care industry.

Ms Lyons brings world class leadership and change management experience, having been a vocal advocate for gender equality for many years on a global scale.

Acting Chair Kevin McCoy said the Council was thrilled with the new appointment which commences on 1 July 2020.

“This is an incredibly important role implementing *A Matter of Care*, Australia’s aged care workforce strategy, as highlighted in the recent recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

“With the current unprecedented focus on aged care and its workforce, Libby’s appointment will strengthen the Council’s ability to reshape how Australians view the sector and how we as industry leaders support our workforce to deliver care and support that older Australians expect and deserve.

Mr McCoy said the Directors of the Council are looking to be disruptive in their work, and think in a manner that challenges the status quo, to address issues that for too long have remained unresolved.

Ms Lyons said that the Aged Care Workforce Industry Council has made exceptional inroads in the delivery of *A Matter of Care*, under the strong leadership of Acting Chair Kevin McCoy, Council Directors, CEO Louise O’Neill and her team.

“I am excited to build on this momentum and work in collaboration with all industry partners who share in the vision of having a respected, skilled and well supported workforce,” she said.

“I only see great things to come.”

-Ends-

For further media information contact:

Louise O’Neill
CEO
Aged Care Workforce Industry Council
+61 (0)478 439 265
Louise.ONeill@acwic.com.au

Biography – Libby Lyons

Libby Lyons was appointed Director of the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA, the Agency) in October 2015 and completed her term in April 2021. Over the five and a half years at the helm of the Agency, Libby led a transformational program through which the Agency is now recognised as a national powerhouse in promoting evidence-based change for gender equality in Australian workplaces. Over this time, it has also become internationally recognised.

As Director, Libby, oversaw the statutory reporting process that gathers gender equality data from more than 10,000 employers, covering nearly four and a half million employees. Soon after her appointment, Libby initiated the development and implementation of a strategic plan focused on maximising the Agency's world-leading dataset and expanding the reach and impact of gender reporting nationally and internationally.

As Director, Libby focused on working closely with Australian employers to achieve gender equality and regularly took part in roundtable and speaking events with business to share their experiences, challenges and successes in creating workplaces where the skills and ambitions of employees are equally recognised and rewarded, regardless of gender.

In delivering the international outreach part of the strategic vision, Libby was invited to speak to governments, private enterprise, industry bodies and unions in Singapore, Chile, Argentina, Mauritius, Indonesia, Vietnam, The Philippines, South Korea, the United States and Japan. In these settings she addressed the business case for gender equality, the Agency's world leading dataset and the necessity for a data, evidence based approach for change. She also presented at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York in 2018 and 2019.

Libby was listed in Apolitical's 100 Most Influential People Working in Gender Policy for both 2018 and 2019, she was featured in the book *200 Women* and was awarded Woman of the Decade for Gender Policy by Women Economic Forum in 2019. She was a loud and proud Ambassador for Honour a Woman, a volunteer organisation that worked to achieve gender balance in the Australian honours system.

She is currently a national board member for Chief Executive Women and is also the Western Australian State Chapter Chair for the same. She is the inaugural Chair for Science in Australia Gender Equality (SAGE) and has most recently been appointed as the inaugural Chair for the Aged Care Workforce Industry Council.

Prior to joining the Agency, Libby had a distinguished career in corporate affairs and government relations, including heading up BHP's Olympic Dam corporate affairs division, as well as senior executive roles at Atlas Iron, CITIC Pacific Mining, Alcoa of Australia, the Western Power Corporation and Telstra.

Libby has a strong, personal and family commitment to public service. Her grandfather, Joe Lyons, was Prime Minister of Australia from 1932 until his death in office in 1939. Her grandmother, Dame Enid Lyons, was the first woman elected to the House of Representatives in 1943 and was the first women cabinet minister in the Menzies Government. Libby's father also had a distinguished career spanning nearly 25 years in Tasmanian state politics. Libby started her career as a primary school teacher in the outer northern suburbs of Melbourne. She has also served on the boards of non-profit organisations SIDS and Kids WA, and was Executive Chairman of Kalparrin, a Western Australian charity that supports the families of children with special needs and disabilities.

About the Aged Care Workforce Industry Council

The [Aged Care Workforce Industry Council](#) is the first leadership group of its kind in Australia's aged care industry working across the aged care sector, workers, Governments and older people, their families and carers. The Council is committed to creating a better, more sustainable aged care system across Australia with a clear focus on building the capacity of the workforce to provide the care that older people, their families and carers expect.