

MEDIA RELEASE

Women Learn About Retirement Income Planning Via BPW Business Incubator ONLINE Retirement Income Planning for Women

Statistics highlight the gender gap in retirement savings - women must work 25 years more to retire with the same amount of super as men; Australian women earn less than men (18%-24% less) and through casual/part-time work, which contributes to gender gap retirement savings. This also affects the amount of retirement savings women have prior to commencing their small business. 83% of women aged 40-65 do not feel prepared for retirement. Women in small business are often also managing family responsibilities (child care/after school) which affects lack of time/focus spent on personal retirement planning issues.

The BPW Business Incubator ONLINE Retirement Income Planning for Women Project was initiated to provide mentoring, online training and forums for women employed or running their own business in Western Australia. The Project assists women to gain a better understanding of retirement planning issues, acquire better networking skills, improve financial self-assessment, develop goal setting skills and ultimately have retirement plans for their future.

Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc. (Belmont BEC) in conjunction with the Australian Federation of Business & Professional Women (Western Australian Division) and the Textile Clothing Footwear Resource Centre WA (TCFWA) developed the specialist program as findings showed many women are living their final years in poverty.

The Hon. Liza Harvey MLA, Deputy Premier; Minister for Women's Interests, launched the unique Retirement Project on September 19th at the BPW Retirement Forum in Belmont.

The launch event included Guest Speakers and an opportunity for attendees to register for Webinars and Mentoring.

The full program included the following services:

- Attend FREE Retirement Income Planning Forums and Networking Events with guest speakers, networking opportunities and make new business contacts.
- Access FREE ONLINE Webinar topics on Retirement Income Planning such as '*Getting Started – Is Retirement in your Business Plan*', and '*Get Serious – Developing your Retirement Plan*'.
- Receive FREE one/one ONLINE Mentoring with specialist advisors to assist with queries to improve their retirement income planning.

Key project trainers, advisors and mentors include:

- Carol Hanlon, CEO, Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc., (Belmont BEC), Textile Clothing Footwear Resource Centre WA Inc. (TCF WA) and Past President of BPW Belmont has an extensive record of delivering small business development programs for the benefit of women across Australia and Internationally. Carol was an Australian Government delegate at the APEC Women Economy Forum's in Russia 2012, Indonesia 2013 and Philippines 2015; invited by the NGO Forums at United Nations CSW 2012, 2015, 2016 to deliver Empowering Women in Small Business Forums in New York where the BPW Business Incubator concept was initially launched in 2012; Carol was inducted into the Inaugural 2011 WA Women's Hall of Fame for her passion and commitment with micro small business owners to achieve their business dreams.
- Jeya Ramanathan, Trainer and Business Mentor, Belmont BEC and Vice President of BPW Belmont has a commitment for the growth and development of women in small business; Jeya presented at the Belmont BEC's 'Empowering Women in Small Business' Forum in New York, 2015 and was lead business mentor in the Belmont BEC's – APEC BPW Business Incubator Training & Mentoring Project with women in five countries.

- Kelly Pillay, Director, KLI Accountants and Wealth Managers and Past President BPW Fremantle and member BPW Perth is a financial planner and accountant who prides herself on being able to come up with high performing strategies that can deliver the lifestyle to assist women in achieving their goals in retirement.

For more information about the program - www.bpwbusinessincubator.com/retirement or email info@belmontbec.com

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BPW Business Incubator ONLINE Retirement Income Planning for Women

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www.bpw.com.au/wa

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About

Business & Professional Women known as BPW develops the professional, business and leadership potential of women on all levels through advocacy, mentoring, networking, skill building and economic empowerment programs and projects around the world. BPW was founded in 1930 and is represented in over 100 countries across 5 continents with General Consultative Status at The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

www.bpw-international.org | www.bpw.com.au | www.bpw.com.au/wa

Belmont BEC (BEC Global) is a not-for-profit business association providing training and mentoring support services to individuals to start or improve their small business and is a specialist in virtual business incubation. www.belmontbec.com
www.bpwbusinessincubator.com/retirement

TCF WA (TCF Global) is a not-for-profit industry association assisting designers and fashion industry with business skills development, linkages in the global supply chain, International trade and industry networks. www.tcfwa.com www.tcfaustralia.com www.tcfglobal.com