



Local woman named as a finalist for Global Awards

Carol Hanlon of Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc. (Belmont BEC) and Textile Clothing Footwear Resource Centre WA Inc. (TCFWA), not-for profit associations based in Western Australia has been selected as a finalist for the 2024 Women Changing the World Awards.

The Women Changing the World Awards presented by Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York and Oprah Winfrey's all-time favourite guest, Dr. Tererai Trent, celebrate and recognize women achieving outstanding success in areas such as sustainability, humanitarian work, leadership, advocacy, tech, product development, education, health, and innovation. The awards are designed to recognize the growing number of women who are leading the way in making the world a better place for us all and inspire other women to answer the call to take action.

Dr. Trent explains, "These exceptional women are here to awaken hearts, give permission to recapture dreams and inspire the women of the world to come together to forge a brighter path for all. The rising of women is the awakening of everybody."

In the 1970's, Carol Hanlon established her own fashion design company; growing it to become a manufacturing, wholesale, retail, and export business over the 20 years that followed. It was during this time in the 80's that Carol also undertook many community roles, including District Governor of an International Women's Service Club, with a focus on speech & hearing impairment, when she realized just how much she can help others with her knowledge, expertise, and experience.

Since the 90's, Carol has established two not-for-profit community organisations in Western Australia; assisting entrepreneurs and micro small business and creatives to start, grow or expand their own businesses to also developing various social enterprise projects including:

- clothes lending library for job interviews;
- global micro sewing livelihood projects for women;



- Economic empowerment of women through hosting annual NGO Forums during United Nations CSW and gender advocacy roles as past WA state president of Business and Professional Women Clubs; and,
- establishing a BPW Women in Business Incubator providing direct support online for women in business training & mentoring across Australia & globally.

It was in 1994 that Carol established Western Australia based non-profit community organization, Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc. (BEC), and in the years that followed founded the Textile Clothing Footwear Resource Centre WA Inc. (TCFWA), Designedge Fashion Incubator, TCF Australia and TCF Global, along with many other community initiatives.

Her not-for-profit projects and programs have assisted over 33,000 individuals and small businesses in WA, across Australia and beyond with low cost or 'no cost' training and mentoring to develop business skills and business growth potential, and with 7,000 in the fashion, creative and TCF related industries. Both NFP's have assisted over 25,000 women in WA, across Australia and beyond, including regional/remote areas, Indigenous and culturally linguistically diverse (CaLD) entrepreneurs. Through her BEC Global, TCF Global and BPW Business Incubator network, Carol's business and NGO networks span over 120 countries, and she continues to assist empowering women in developing countries and facilitating micro sewing projects, a continuing passion that Carol pursues wherever possible.

Being named a 'business dream champion', Carol has lived experience and empathy for those wishing to create their own business dream and wants to assist in any way she is able. Carol grew up in a disadvantaged family situation and learnt first-hand to be resilient and overcome difficulties, leaving home at 15 years of age and being self-taught in all her pursuits. Starting her own home-based fashion business with little resources embedded in Carol the commitment to create opportunities for herself and to always empower others. Carol has been acknowledged for her community based small business projects with many local, state, national and global awards since the 1970's.



Dr. Trent's vision for these awards is to empower women everywhere to reclaim their sacred dreams and call in women across the globe to unite and pave the way towards a better future for all.

It can be challenging to create change in the world and Carol Hanlon gives this advice for others thinking about following their calling to make a difference.

"Recognize and value your skills and talents and get involved, join supportive local and global networks with like-minded people to make a difference in the area of your passion."

Carol Hanlon is proud of her achievements, and over the last 12 months alone has celebrated the '**30th Anniversary**' of the NFP Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc and coordinated her 19th designedge Innovation Festival with over 150 events, webinars, and forums.

She also staged her '**30th Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards**', of which has assisted many thousands of winners and finalists to be recognised for their achievements and business excellence across Western Australia.

Carol is equally proud of hosting her '**9th NGO CSW Forum**' during the United Nations Commission Status of Women (CSW68), providing a global platform for women's NGO's and entrepreneurs showcasing their issues and best practices. The 2024 Forum topic "Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs, Gender Equality, and Sustainable Development Goals" included presentations from NGOs and entrepreneurs from Iran, Sudan, Uganda, Lebanon, USA, UK, and Australia.

Carol attributes her success to her passion to empower entrepreneurs and creating unique opportunities and support for small businesses. Teamed with Carol's determination and ability to overcome all the hurdles that come along with running two NFP's, she values the support of her entire team, committees, staff, volunteers, sponsors, and many supporters.



She is committed to continuing to make an impact through her work and her vision for the future is to keep being innovative through her small business projects that deliver online business training and mentoring to small businesses all over Australia and beyond. She is also passionate about generating projects for emerging fashion designers and creatives to start and build their global fashion businesses. Carol's passion has always been to assist the economic empowerment of women and expand the BPW Business Incubator for women in business, providing support to many more thousands of women in developing countries with the opportunity to gain online training and support to start and/or grow their own small business.

Read the complete finalist list at www.wcwawards.com/finalists

The winners of the 2024 Women Changing the World Awards will be announced at the Women Changing the World Global Summit and Awards in London, United Kingdom on 25 May 2024.

For more information on the Women Changing the World Awards visit www.wcwawards.com or contact Carol Hanlon P|+61417963231 W| www.belmontbec.com www.tcfwa.com E| carol.hanlon@belmontbec.com

Carol Hanlon Past Awards and recognition include: Top 50 Small Business Leaders in Australia; Best National BEC Manager; Best Metropolitan BEC Australia; WA Women's Hall of Fame; City of Perth '100 Champions WA'; '50 WA Women of Success'; 'Empowering Women in Community Organisation in Australia'; APEC Philippines 'Women Icons of APEC'; Women Economic Forums, India 'Iconic Women Creating a Better World for All' Award; The Hague Netherlands 'Exceptional Women of Excellence' Award; 'Woman of Decade Entrepreneurship & Innovation Award, Women Economic Forum, Perth WA;