

7 March 2019

Better the Balance, better the world: Recognising International Women's Day Friday 8 March 2019

The Australasian College of Health Service Management (ACHSM) proudly supports International Women's Day, a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

The theme of International Women's Day this year is **Better the Balance, better the world**, marking a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

In November 2018, the Workplace Gender Equality Agency released Australian data that showed whilst all industries have a gender pay gap in favour of men, the healthcare and social assistance workforce was one of the few who have experienced a widening of this gap for the second year.

With a workforce of around 80 per cent women, this is an important issue for the health care workforce in Australia and one that all leaders can do something about.

Ensuring equitable pathways into senior roles, removing the barriers to career progression and ensuring flexibility in the workplace that helps men and women share family responsibilities are some of the ways in which organisations and healthcare leaders are taking positive action.

"The WA Branch of the ACHSM is in its second year of a special series of events promoting the role that women are playing in healthcare leadership," said ACHSM National President and WA Branch President Dr Neale Fong FCHSM.

"In partnership with the East Metropolitan Health Service, the series has provided opportunity to explore a range of themes around supporting women in leadership and help women network across sectors."

"I encourage all members and associates to help raise awareness of International Women's Day by celebrating women's achievements, challenging bias and consider ways in which greater gender balance could be realised in your organisations."

Further information:

Workplace Gender Equality Agency: <https://www.wgea.gov.au/>

International Women's Day <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/IWD2019>

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About

ACHSM is the peak professional body for health service managers in Australasia and brings together health leaders to learn, network and share ideas which in turn shape our current and future health systems.

The mission of the College is to recognise, develop and support effective health leadership and management. The aim is to help deliver quality services and improve health and wellbeing.

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