

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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Mercy Health named Workplace Gender Equality Agency Employer of Choice for Gender Equality

The Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) has today announced the list of 2016 WGEA Employer of Choice for Gender Equality (EOCGE) citation holders.

Mercy Health has been recognised as an EOCGE, a citation it has received each consecutive year since 2008. The citation recognises Mercy Health's active commitment to achieving gender equality whilst being a leader in driving positive change for inclusive workplaces. Achieving gender equality is increasingly critical to any organisation's success. The citation is viewed as a fantastic feature of leading organisations such as Mercy Health which supports the ability to attract and retain the best people.

The Catholic health, residential aged care and home and community care provider is one of just 106 organisations and one of only five in the healthcare and social services provider category to be awarded the WGEA citation across Australia in 2016.

WGEA Director Libby Lyons said WGEA data shows there is progress towards gender equality in Australian workplaces, but it is too slow.

"It is only through more employers adopting leading practices to promote gender equality in the workplace that we will see the pace of change pick up," Ms Lyons said.

"I congratulate all the 2016 citation holders for their commitment and recognition of the strong business case for gender equality. I hope to see continued growth in this community of leading practice employers."

Mercy Health Group Chief Executive Officer and WGEA Pay Equity Ambassador Adjunct Professor Stephen Cornelissen said it was important to recognise and reward the talents of our people and provide the necessary work and life support irrespective of gender.

"More than 85 per cent of Mercy Health's workforce is female, so it is imperative we balance career demands with caring requirements," Adj Prof Cornelissen said.

"Gender equality should be a pivotal part of any organisation and Mercy Health is committed to providing flexibility in the workplace and closing gender pay gaps."

To be successfully recognised as an Employer of Choice for Gender Equality Mercy Health met a number of rigorous reporting requirements under the following WGEA Gender Equality indicators:

- gender composition of the workforce

- gender composition of governing bodies
- equal remuneration between women and men
- flexible working arrangements
- employee consultation
- sex-based harassment and discrimination.

– Ends –

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