

Tuesday 16 August, 2016

## **Women in Super launches a Domestic Violence Charter and calls upon employers to take a stand against family violence**

**Women in Super (WIS)**, a not-for-profit organisation advocating for better retirement outcomes for women, launched a Domestic Violence Charter at their annual National Road Show lunch in Melbourne where attendees from the superannuation and financial services industries were addressed by Rosie Batty, domestic violence campaigner and 2015 Australian of the Year.

In hosting Rosie Batty in 2016, WIS has called on employers in the superannuation industry to take a stand against family violence by committing to a number of measures including domestic violence leave for employees and outlining this commitment in a workplace family violence policy.

Women in Super Chair, Cate Wood said making a contribution to addressing family violence was important both to support their members employed within the superannuation sector and because the impacts of family violence would contribute to poorer retirement outcomes for the women affected.

The impacts of family violence on females in our society are wide ranging and include decreased workforce participation, inability to access financial resources and housing, social disengagement, and increased health and mental illness issues. These impacts can be lifelong and as an organisation that advocates for better retirement outcomes for women WIS is determined to make a difference.

Reducing family violence is part of Women in Super's broader commitment to improving retirement prospects for women.

## Media Release

“It is not acceptable that women retire with half the superannuation savings of men, and women who are victims of, or who have experienced family violence, are further disadvantaged by the structural inequities of the superannuation system,” said Cate Wood.

"We are very grateful to have Rosie Batty speak to us and share her thoughts and insights about family violence and the need for us all to stand together in supporting those affected," she added.

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*Women in Super is a national advocacy and networking group for women employed in the superannuation and financial services industries, and advocates on behalf of its members and women generally to improve women's retirement prospects and access to superannuation.*

*The Women in Super National Road Show sponsored by ISH Holdings is an annual series of lunch events in every capital city started in 2011 with the aim of providing a platform for a high profile female speaker to deliver a key message to the superannuation and financial services industries. Previous speakers have included Elizabeth Broderick, Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner (2014) and Fiona Reynolds, Principles for Responsible Investment (2015).*