



10 Australian Women pitch for Economic Equality

National NFP, Global Sisters is supporting 10 Australian women who will pitch for far more than business support at the national Sister Pitch in Melbourne today.

CEO Mandy Richards says “these women are incredible. Like so many others, they’ve found themselves in a life circumstance that prevents them from accessing decent mainstream employment. But their resilience, experience, skills and knowledge are perfectly suited to self-employment and so, through our fully subsidised education programs Global Sisters has assisted these women, and hundreds like them, to create and start their own business. This pitch is a celebration of their journey, as well as an opportunity for the business community to come together and rally support to further propel them forward.”

The women will pitch for business opportunities and specific support as they strive for economic equality and the flow on effects to their families and communities. They are also all aiming to make the world a better place through their businesses. Ms Richards says, “the support achieved for the women pitching last year included \$485k in pro bono business services from big businesses as well as individuals, with opportunities arising for our Sisters such as a tea distribution partnership through T2, a website and imagery created by Clemenger, products showcased by Myer and marketing support from Maddocks! We’re very excited in anticipation of tonight’s results!”

The women pitching have a wide range of businesses including native foods, clothing design, clay-based wellness products, up-cycled cubby houses, bespoke jewellery, organic knitwear, horticultural produce, and service-based businesses such as end of life planning and community support. The annual Sister Pitch will be held at Melbourne’s LaunchVIC with a live stream also running for those who can’t attend in person. The women represent a wide age-range and come from diverse cultural backgrounds.

"Our vision is a world where ALL women are provided the opportunity to create their own economic future, regardless of age, location, marital status, or number of dependents" said CEO, Mandy Richards. "Our research has found that in Australia, women over 65 are the fastest growing homeless demographic and their superannuation balances are grossly insufficient due to breaks in paid work during the prime reproductive and child raising years. Also, the average length of time job seeking for unemployed women over 55 is 68 weeks, largely due to age discrimination and a false set of beliefs that this age group is 'out of touch' or unskilled." [Click here for latest research.](#)

Global Sisters has also released it's latest research report into the effectiveness of Welfare to Work in assisting single mothers into sustainable employment. [Click Here to access this research summary.](#)

Global Sisters works with women (mostly those over 50, single mothers and carers) by offering a 'roadmap' of programs which initially unlock their business idea, then takes them through a 10 week business foundations program called "Sister School". Following this, the women continue to be supported through an Incubation and Acceleration phase.

Sister Pitch will be held from 5.30pm at LaunchVIC, 710 Collins Street, Docklands Melbourne

A link to watch the event live online can be obtained by emailing hello@globalsisters.org

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