



THE UNIVERSITY OF
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A U S T R A L I A

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Notre Dame empowers women with financial literacy

The University of Notre Dame Australia is partnering with trailblazing businesswoman Donny Walford to empower women by giving them skills to make smart decisions with money and tools to climb the career ladder.

Ms Walford – the founder of women’s leadership development, coaching and mentoring organisation Behind Closed Doors – has joined forces with a university for the first time to help women take control of their financial futures.

The partnership will help set women up for success, with micro credentials on financial literacy to be rolled out at Notre Dame and more women given access to the Master of Business Administration.

The partnership launched last night with a financial literacy taster on the Fremantle campus, which included a keynote speech by Ms Walford that gave women access to critical financial knowledge.

Notre Dame will start running six-week finance and financial literacy courses for women next year, covering practical topics such as salary negotiations, superannuation and dealing with banks.

The University is also helping to address the gender imbalance in corporate Australia by giving more women the chance to take their careers to the next level through post graduate studies.

Businesswomen or aspiring entrepreneurs in the Behind Closed Doors network will be offered scholarships for the University’s Master of Business Administration, Master of Leadership, Graduate Certificate in Business and Graduate Diploma in Business.

This is in line with the goal of Behind Closed Doors to get more executive women on Australian boards.

Ms Walford was the first internal woman appointed to senior management at the State Bank of South Australia in 1992. It was not until 2015 that the experienced businesswoman sat across from another woman in a boardroom.

Ms Walford said she was drawn to Notre Dame because of the ethical leadership components offered in courses and the ability to give her network of women a platform that supports their journey of self-improvement and career advancement.

“In today’s dynamic business landscape, it’s not enough to just have knowledge,” she said. “The application of that knowledge in transformative ways is what sets leaders apart.”

Notre Dame’s National Head of the School of Business and Law, Professor Michael Quinlan, said the University and Ms Walford had a shared ambition to empower women to be the best version of themselves.

“People talk about the need to get women into senior leadership positions but there is a lack of real action,” he said. “This is Notre Dame, Donny Walford and Behind Closed Doors taking action in a meaningful way.

“Through this partnership we can help women excel in their careers, grow the presence of women in corporate Australia and develop more services and programming at Notre Dame around the critical topic of financial literacy.

“It will have an impact on individuals, on the community and on what we are trying to achieve as a university, which is to build a stronger and better future together.”

To find out more about the Master of Business Administration, visit <https://www.notredame.edu.au/programs/school-of-business/postgraduate/master-of-business-administration>

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