

Save the Children Australia CEO wins National Award

Margaret Douglas, CEO of Save the Children Australia, was last night named the winner of the 2006 Equity Trustees Not for Profit CEO of the Year.

In presenting the award last night at the Grand Hyatt in Melbourne, Mr Peter Williams, the Equity Trustees Chief Executive Officer said “CEOs of Not for Profit and charitable organisations receive precious little reward or recognition for their efforts, yet their jobs can be difficult, demanding and challenging,”

He said “They routinely face funding shortfalls and difficulties maintaining services, but nevertheless they roll up their sleeves and get on with the job as they take their organisation forward and leave it stronger. Equity Trustees is proud to be honouring Not for Profit CEOs and recognising their commitment, passion, drive and sacrifice.”

Ms. Douglas was among more than 60 nominees from across Australia recognised for their excellence in delivering services, enhancing the organisation’s image and building strong and successful partnerships.

In making the presentation, it was recognised that she came to Save the Children Australia in 2000 at a time when very difficult decisions were needed. The organisation consisted of six autonomous state bodies and one national body and faced a lack of funds which would result in a cut-back on overseas programs, and AusAID funding was under threat.

Steps were taken to consolidate Save the Children Australia into one national body. Finances were turned around, internal structures altered and systems introduced to meet AusAID requirements and result in vital accreditation for another five years. The increase in revenue from AUS\$5 million in 2000 to \$43 million in 2005 has resulted in more services and programs.

Prior to joining Save the Children, Ms Douglas had a varied career in local government, marketing and business management and analysis. Due to these strong corporate connections, she has established the Save the Children Australia Business Alliance, a voluntary group of influential leaders who make a broader contribution to society beyond their business interests. The Business Alliance has provided a vehicle for corporate Australia to become involved in program delivery around the country. For example, the Communities for Children program has been established to work in remote regions such as the East Kimberley.

The Equity Trustees’ Not for Profit CEO Awards recognise outstanding achievements of chief executives working in the Not for Profit and charitable sector.

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