

CFA SOCIETIES AUSTRALIA

CFA welcomes near gender parity amongst candidates sitting for exams in Australia

Desired 30 per cent outcome of women in investment management a step closer to reality

Sydney 29 May 2017: CFA Societies Australia, member societies of CFA Institute, the global association of investment professionals, today noted that the ratio of female and male exam candidates was now close to 50 per cent.

Amongst new candidates sitting for exams in December 2016, 46 per cent were women and 54 per cent were men. Female candidates returning to re-sit exams accounted for 44 per cent of total candidates.

Mr Anthony Serhan, CFA, President CFA Society Sydney and Managing Director, Research Strategy, Asia-Pacific at Morningstar, said achieving real gender diversity was about outcomes, not just moral imperative.

“Stats like these show there is movement toward tangible outcomes for diversity and this is encouraging for our vision of achieving a 30 per cent target of women in investment management. There is still much to be done to make sure this uptick in female candidates carries through into investment roles in the future. We are encouraged that the programs put in place through our member, candidate and university engagement are making a difference.”

In November 2016, CFA Institute completed its [‘Gender Diversity in Investment Management’ Survey](#) (Survey), the largest Survey of investment management professionals on gender diversity to date. Using this as a point of reference, CFA offers a series of incentives and tools to women in investment management including scholarships to break-down financial barriers to ongoing education for women, and education events devoted to raising awareness of diversity issues, providing support networks and offering practical advice on how to overcome obstacles related to gender disparity at work and home. CFA is also working to showcase role models from various minority groups to promote a greater culture of inclusion in the industry.

“As we’ve noted in the past, the world is a diverse place and the principles by which a society’s belief system and practices are based must reflect this fact,” he said. “CFA wants financial services to lead Australian business as advocates and practitioners of diversity and inclusion, with an initial focus on gender equality. Our societies, locally and globally, are still under-represented in terms of female members so we are very much part of the change movement.”

CFA will continue to advocate for diversity, and specifically gender diversity, with a series of initiatives including its [Future of Finance](#) program.

Mr Serhan added: “We also wish the 6,000 sitting candidates in Australia well in their exams on 3 June 2017.”

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About CFA Societies Australia

The CFA Societies of Sydney, Melbourne and Perth are not-for-profit associations of approximately 2,500 investment professionals; together representing the three Australian chapters of CFA Institute. Our members are engaged in a wide variety of roles across investment management and advice. Most of our members are holders of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation. For more information, please visit <http://www.cfa-australia.com.au/>

About CFA Institute

CFA Institute is the global association of investment professionals that sets the standard for professional excellence and credentials. The organization is a champion for ethical behavior in investment markets and a respected source of knowledge in the global financial community. The end goal: to create an environment where investors' interests come first, markets function at their best, and economies grow. CFA Institute has over 140,000 members in 157 countries and territories, including 134,000 CFA charterholders, and 147 member societies. For more information, visit www.cfainstitute.org.