

31 May 2012

Media Release

Wanted: Real leaders for Queensland

People interested in discovering their full leadership potential are invited to attend one of five free information sessions to be held in Brisbane on 5th June, 20th June and 9th July to hear about one of the most dynamic and highly regarded leadership programs available in the world today.

Social Leadership Australia (SLA) will present the information on its acclaimed year-long leadership program—**Queensland Leadership**—based on the award-winning Sydney Leadership, which has seen up to 400 leaders and emerging leaders from hundreds of organisations graduate since it began in 1999.

More than 600 leaders from government, non-government and top 500 companies have also taken part in one of SLA's open or customised programs in the past year alone.

Unique to this flagship program from SLA is its grounding in the Adaptive Leadership model developed by Professor Ron Heifetz and his colleagues at Harvard University. Using no textbooks, case studies or traditional classrooms, the program takes participants into prisons, schools, housing commission estates, detention centres and other marginalised communities to teach leadership in real time, in the real world.

Participants widely hail SLA's programs as the most profound and powerful learning experiences of their lives.

CEO of SuccessSystems and Vice-President of Greening Australia, Rod Douglas, MBA, FAID, describes the Queensland Leadership program as "extraordinary."

"This was without a doubt the best post-graduate program that I've ever attended," Mr Douglas said. "I got enormous value out of my MBA but this was much deeper learning."

BHP Billiton Organisational Change and Communications Leader, Sharon Ryan, said: "The most rewarding thing for me about Sydney Leadership was having 20 years in change completely blown away."

"The program really pushed me to the edge of my competence and challenged me to listen and learn in completely unexpected ways. If you are serious about leadership and community, then this is a 'must-do' in your lifetime."

SLA Director, Geoff Aigner, said society's most commonly held concepts of leadership had become "tired, unhelpful and profoundly problematic."

"We see the central leadership challenge as one of mobilising people within a system to face their reality – both their challenges and opportunities – and undertake the adaptive work to bring about fundamental, lasting progress," Mr Aigner said.

Sydney Office
Level 1, 188 Oxford Street
Paddington NSW 2021
PO Box 171
Paddington NSW 2021
t 02 9339 8089
f 02 9360 2319

Brisbane Office
9 Wilson Street
West End QLD 4101
PO Box 5347
West End QLD 4101
t 07 3170 4618
f 07 3255 2953

www.benevolent.org.au/leadership

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“As we face the complex challenges of this century and an increasingly uncertain future—environmentally, economically, socially, technologically and politically—we need to move beyond the traditional paradigm of leadership: that we can wait for certain especially gifted individuals to come along to solve the problems for the rest of us mere mortals.

“Queensland Leadership is for people who are motivated to make a difference, whether that be through their personal lives or professional careers.”

INFORMATION SESSIONS – All welcome

Tuesday 5 June

7.30 – 9.00am The Benevolent Society, 9 Wilson Street, West End

12.00 – 2.00pm Level 30, 1 Eagle Street, Brisbane

Wednesday 20 June

7.30 – 9.00am The Benevolent Society, 9 Wilson Street, West End

12.00–2.00pm Level 24, 100 Creek Street, Brisbane

Monday 9 July

7.30–9.00am The Benevolent Society, 9 Wilson Street, West End

RSVP (for catering) Amanda Mead (07) 3170 4618 e amandam@bensoc.org.au

Up to 30 people from across all sectors will be selected for Queensland Leadership 2012-2013. The program commences in September and applications close on 9 July 2012.

Scholarships are available for participants from regional and rural Queensland and from the not-for-profit sector.

Find out more about Queensland Leadership

Contact Social Leadership Australia in Brisbane on (07) 3170 4618 or visit the website www.benevolent.org.au/leadership.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Rachael Vincent, Communications & Marketing Manager t 02 9339 9318

About Social Leadership Australia

Social Leadership Australia is a specialist leadership development centre at Australia’s first charity, The Benevolent Society. Its purpose is to shift the thinking and practice of leadership in Australia to create positive social impact. Established in 1999 with a single program for 30 people (Sydney Leadership), Social Leadership Australia now teaches more than 600 corporate, government and NGO leaders a year across the country.

About The Benevolent Society

Established in 1813, The Benevolent Society is Australia’s first charity. We act as a catalyst for social change, helping thousands of vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians every year. From financial hardship to mental health issues, child protection to independent living for the aged and more, we aim to fix the underlying problems - not just treat the symptoms We spend 89 per cent of our revenue on our community operations, doing whatever it takes to make a difference. We believe that Australia will be a better place if everyone has a fair go, and they all feel they belong. Website: www.benevolent.org.au