



# SYDNEY LEADERSHIP 2011

CHALLENGE YOURSELF. CHANGE YOUR WORLD.

**SOCIAL**  
**LEADERSHIP**  
AUSTRALIA  benevolent  
society

## IT IS POSSIBLE TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Sydney Leadership is a powerful, year-long leadership development program for senior and emerging leaders who are inspired and motivated to make a difference in their world ... people who are prepared to challenge and surprise themselves ... people with the courage to be catalysts for change.

Sydney Leadership was established by The Benevolent Society in 1999 as part of a vision to create new leadership to help turn around some of the hardest issues we face as a nation. Each year the program brings together a diverse, multi-disciplinary cohort of leaders from across the corporate, government and not-for-profit sectors to work together to learn what it means to exercise real leadership - leadership that delivers lasting progress for us all.

From the financial services executive driving organisational change or community engagement, to the CEO of a charity looking for new partners to achieve greater impact in their work, Sydney Leadership delivers.

The program is equipping a world-changing network of leaders with the skills, wisdom and bravery to activate deep change in themselves and in their organisations ... and to drive lasting change for society as a whole.

“I THINK  
WE CAN  
DO BETTER.”

Robert F. Kennedy

ALICE CAHILL  
Sustainability Practitioner, Sydney Leadership 2003.  
Photo: Louie Douvis/Fairfaxphotos

“The most rewarding thing for me about Sydney Leadership was having **twenty years experience 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 Sydney Leadership is a ‘must do’ in your lifetime.”

Sharon Ryan, Organisational Change and Communications Lead, BHP Billiton, Energy Coal, Sydney Leadership 2009

## LEADERS NEED TO SEE THE REAL WORLD, NOT THE INSIDE OF A CLASSROOM

At Social Leadership Australia we develop leaders who can see beyond their four walls. Because the biggest challenges we all face are not in any textbook, they are out in the world.

In Sydney Leadership there are no simulations or role plays. Instead, participants spend twenty days coming face to face with complex social issues impacting on metropolitan and rural New South Wales. A three day retreat in the nation's centre of political power in Canberra features at the heart of the schedule, which also includes one-on-one coaching, small group work, reflective exercises, readings, guest speakers and case studies, and a focus on each participant's individual leadership challenge.

At its core, Sydney Leadership employs our hallmark Adaptive Leadership approach, based on the model developed at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. With a strong

“Extraordinary ... the most challenging and **most valuable development experience I've had in my career**, because it was so based in experience.”

Simon Terry, General Manager, NAB  
Accelerate 2007

emphasis on intensive, experiential learning against a substantial theoretical background, the program is designed to unlock creative potential, break through the habits and norms that keep human 'systems' stuck in the status quo, and uncover new ways forward.

Sydney Leadership's unique, 360° view of the world and intensive skills development combine to help generate a new order of working, thinking and connection and the ability to create lasting, transformational change.

“This was without a doubt the best post-graduate program that I've ever attended. **I got enormous value out of my MBA but this was much deeper learning.**”

Rod Douglas, MBA, FAICD, CEO SuccesSystems; National Vice-President, Greening Australia.  
Queensland Leadership 2009-2010.

“KNOWLEDGE CAN BE  
COMMUNICATED BUT  
NOT WISDOM.”

Hermann Hesse

CHRISTOPHER ZINN  
Media spokesperson, Choice Magazine  
Sydney Leadership 2009  
Photo: Martin Mischkulnig

## AN INVESTMENT IN REAL PROGRESS

Sydney Leadership is an opportunity to invest in the people in your organisation who are dealing with the toughest issues you confront – people with skills and motivation to lead through confusing and difficult periods of growth and change, with clarity, creativity and courage.

We live in an increasingly complex and fast changing world where we can no longer pretend that boundaries exist between organisations, markets, communities and the environment. Sydney Leadership develops the skills we need – as individuals, as organisations, as a society – to identify, to understand and to adapt to these complex social challenges ... and thrive.

**An investment in Sydney Leadership is an investment in:**

- the ability to correctly identify the thinking and behaviour that are the real causes of intransigent problems in groups and organisations
- a highly developed, pragmatic new leadership skill set
- improved communications, relationship management and partnering skills to collaborate effectively with diverse stakeholders
- an expanded self-awareness and clarity of purpose
- the ability to inspire others and the resilience to survive the pressures of leadership.

Sydney Leadership also introduces its participants to a valuable network of talented, like-minded – but very different – leaders from across the government, not-for-profit and business worlds.

**“I totally underestimated the positive impact that Sydney Leadership was to have in shaping my future, both personally and professionally. Aside from opening new doors and connecting me with some wonderful people, it caused me to reflect on how I could lead and drive constructive change in areas close to my heart in all aspects of my life. Sydney Leadership is not for the fainthearted – but it is well worth the ride.”**

Simon Wright, Director, Simply Sustainable. Sydney Leadership 2003.

## SOCIAL LEADERSHIP AUSTRALIA

Established by The Benevolent Society in 1999, as part of its commitment to social innovation, Social Leadership Australia has introduced a new leadership philosophy to Australia – a fearless approach to learning that disrupts traditional thinking and empowers leaders with tools to bring about lasting change.

Unique in Australia, our world-class programs are based on the Adaptive Leadership model developed by Ronald Heifetz and Marty Linsky at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. We take this powerful model to a new level by focussing it on making change for all society.

In 2009 alone, more than 500 leaders from NGOs, government and Top 500 companies discovered the meaning of real leadership in a Social Leadership Australia program. Formal evaluations and feedback from our program participants and clients consistently point to an unrivalled learning experience with a depth that surpasses theoretical knowledge.

### PROGRAM DIRECTORS

TERRI SOLLER, BSc, PDM, MM  
Sydney Leadership Program Manager

GEOFF AIGNER, MSD, MBA  
Senior Manager, Development

LIZ SKELTON, BA (Hons)  
Senior Manager, Programs

ROBBIE MACPHERSON, MA  
Head, Social Leadership Australia

“The first step in creating positive social change is to have a desire to make a difference in the world. The second step is to know how to convert that desire into real vision and action... to find the courage and resolve needed to be a true leader. **Sydney Leadership reveals the power of collaboration, partnership, trust, integrity, authenticity and a strong set of values when exercising leadership.**”

Vanessa Leshie, Director Strategic Projects,  
Australian Human Rights Commission.  
Sydney Leadership 2007.

### MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at [www.benevolent.org.au/leadership](http://www.benevolent.org.au/leadership) or contact us to request an information booklet or RSVP for an information session (02) 9339 8089 or email [leadership@bensoc.org.au](mailto:leadership@bensoc.org.au).



# “WE ARE THE ONES WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR.”

June Jordan

## **SYDNEY LEADERSHIP 2011 KEY DATES**

### **Information session, CBD**

Tuesday 28th September 2010,  
7.30-9.00am

### **Information session, Paddington**

Monday 18th October 2010,  
6.30-8.00pm

### **Applications close**

Friday 12th November 2010

### **Selection interviews**

December 2010 - January 2011

### **Program commences**

Thursday 10th March 2011

Contact us to RSVP (for catering) or  
request an information booklet.

## **Social Leadership Australia Real Leadership. Real Progress.**

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## **The Benevolent Society**

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### **Front cover:**

DOUG TAYLOR, CEO, United Way Sydney.  
Sydney Leadership 2004

VANESSA LESNIE, Director Strategic Projects,  
Australian Human Rights Commission.  
Sydney Leadership 2007.

Photo: Martin Mischkulnig

### **Back cover:**

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