

## **MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT**

Thursday, 16 July 2015

### **Mental Health Advocate Awarded 2015 COSBOA Small Business Champion**

The founder of Billie Goat Soap, Leanne Faulkner was named the 2015 **COSBOA Small Business Champion** at the **Vodafone National Small Business Summit** by Paul Nielsen, Director & Chair of the Council of Small Business Australia (COSBOA) yesterday. The Australian entrepreneur was awarded in recognition for her contribution towards highlighting the importance of mental health in small business owners.

Ms Faulkner is currently working on a project focusing on the mental health of small business people with [Beyond Blue](#).

Mr Nielsen said when awarding Ms Faulkner; “this year in line with the Summit’s theme for passion and people; we have chosen a winner that is truly extraordinary. She has built a small business from the ground up experiencing both the highs and the lows of what that entails, and made a huge difference to business people everywhere; Leanne very much deserves this recognition.”

Overcome with emotion, Ms Faulkner thanked COSBOA and Peter Strong for their support. “The gift that I received from my experience with small business is recognising that we really need to do something in the area of mental health. I was stressed and full of anxiety and needed support. I wanted to see what resources were there and there was nothing when I was having a tough time. It led me to Peter and COSBOA and the beginning of what we now know as Beyond Blue,” Ms Faulkner said.

Mr Peter Strong, CEO of COSBOA said; “Leanne is a strong proponent for mental health. She has brought awareness towards this otherwise neglected issue and is helping small business owners across the country overcome hard times; she has contributed greatly,” said Mr Strong.





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**Leanne Faulkner is available for interviews upon request.**

**Notes to Editors**

1. The Council of Small Business Australia (COSBOA) was founded in 1977 and was incorporated in 1979.
2. COSBOA is Australia's peak body exclusively representing the interests of small businesses.
3. The VODAFONE National Small Business Summit 2015 will be held at Doltone House Jones Bay Wharf, Sydney on 16 and 17 July.
4. The VODAFONE National Small Business provides the small business sector with the opportunity to discuss and identify relevant issues, promote innovation and generate ideas to stimulate growth within the industry.
5. For more information about the summit visit: [www.nationalsmallbusinesssummit.com.au](http://www.nationalsmallbusinesssummit.com.au)
6. For more information on COSBOA visit: <http://www.cosboa.org.au/>
7. Interviews with Peter Strong, CEO are available upon request.
8. Connect through social media channels:

Facebook: [/COSBOA](https://www.facebook.com/COSBOA)

Twitter: [@COSBOA](https://twitter.com/COSBOA)

Hashtag: [#NSBS15](https://twitter.com/hashtag/NSBS15)

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/company/cosboa>

9. COSBOA is a long-time advocate of small business on issues from taxation and workplace relations,



**SMALL BUSINESS  
AUSTRALIA**



**Vodafone National  
Small Business Summit**  
16 - 17 July 2015 Sydney

through to competition law and retail tenancy.

10. The goals of COSBOA are to promote and support the development of small businesses in Australia and the council recognises that it is a national imperative for Australia that the needs of small business are on the national policy agenda.