

MEDIA RELEASE

Infinitas Asset Management and Centre for Gender Economics & Innovation Launch Diversity Index

Infinitas Asset Management in partnership with the Centre for Gender Economics & Innovation has launched a performance index for companies within the S&P/ASX200 Index having a minimum of 25% female Board Directors. The index will provide investors with a tool to gauge the performance of companies with gender diversity among Board members and to benchmark investment portfolio performance.

The **Infinitas/C4GEi Diversity Index** will be published by Infinitas on an on-going basis. The investment management firm has developed investment products and services for investors who seek to have a professionally managed portfolio that is invested in companies with gender diverse Boards and that will be benchmarked against the Infinitas/C4GEi Diversity Index.

In a rare show of cross-party political consensus, Senators from the three major parties – Senator Marise Payne, Senator Larissa Waters and Senator Claire Moore - spoke in support at the Index launch.

Historical Performance

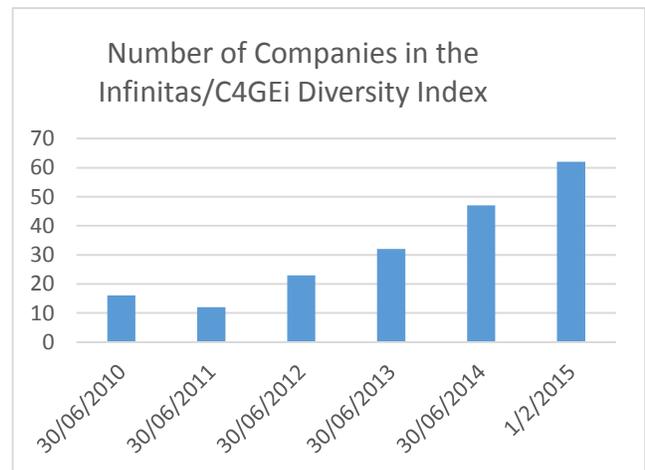
Back-testing from 2010 to March 2015, a portfolio tracking the Infinitas/C4GEi Diversity Index would have exceeded the performance from a portfolio tracking the S&P/ASX200 index by close to 2% pa on average.

Diversity vs. Non-Diversity

Infinitas has also produced an index of ASX200 companies which have no women on their Boards: an “All-Blokes” Index. Back-testing shows that the Infinitas/C4GEi Diversity Index would have exceeded the performance of the “All-Blokes” by more than 7% pa.

Diversity Trends

Whilst the overall level of diversity including gender diversity is frustratingly low, it is evident that there is a steadily rising number of companies meeting our threshold level of 25%. Amongst ASX200 companies, there are currently 63 with 25% female inclusion on their Board. Infinitas and the Centre for Gender Economics & Innovation are hopeful that, in coming years, we can progressively raise the threshold for inclusion in the Infinitas/C4GEi Diversity Index to 50% as more companies improve their diversity metrics.



Board Diversity & Improved Corporate & Investment Performance.

Investment Director of Infinitas Asset Management, Steve Macdonald said “the outperformance by our Diversity Index is consistent with the findings of multiple studies conducted around the world. Having people with a diversity of life experiences sitting around a Board table provides companies with greater potential to identify risks and opportunities and to develop solutions and strategies to the benefit of the companies and their shareholders and other stakeholders”.

Susanne Moore, the founder of the Centre for Gender Economics & Innovation said “raising awareness of the benefits to investors that flow from fostering diversity within corporations is an important step in encouraging more of our companies to do more to embrace diversity. Gender is just one aspect of diversity but it is an important and readily measurable aspect and one in which many companies still have a lot of room for improvement.”

Publication of Infinitas/C4GEi Diversity Index

The Infinitas/C4GEi Diversity Index will be published on an ongoing basis on the Infinitas website – www.infinitasmgt.com.au

About Infinitas

Infinitas Asset Management Limited is a Values-based portfolio management firm established in 2008 servicing private investors and the philanthropic/not for profit sector. It is an Australian leader of gender focused investment strategies and products. Infinitas has published reports titled *Investing Like A Woman* and *The Value of Women* which are available at www.infinitasmgt.com.au

About The Centre for Gender Economics & Innovation

The Centre for Gender Economics And Innovation aims to be the world’s leading social enterprise improving women’s contributions to the economy and helping women achieve their leadership potential. The Centre’s Diversity Program Review Framework™, which is operated under a global licence, is a proprietary methodology for determining an organisation’s diversity capability. www.centreforgendereconomics.org

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