**Transcript**

***Professor Paul Mather – Women on corporate boards***

What we’re examining is whether women on corporate boards add value and enhance performance. The reason why this question’s interesting and we’ve gone into it is the Australian Stock Exchange has recently regulated and incentivised companies to actually get more women on boards. The typical reason for it is based on social justice. We’re leaving that aside. Obviously there’s great reasons there and saying “Well, does it add economic value?”

The outcome we are predicting and think we will achieve is that because of inherent psychological differences, for example, the psychological literature would suggest that women are more risk averse than men, that women on boards will actually serve to enhance firm performance.

Oh look, I think it’s going to be big because as I said regulation is pushing companies to go that route. The arguments have been entirely based around social justice. It would be quite powerful to say “Leave aside social justice this actually does add value” and I think it’s going to be a particular interest because a lot of the medium sized corporations are whinging a bit and saying “Look, it is hard to get good women to come on board” or it’s expensive, it’s difficult and I think if we can provide evidence to show that it does seem to increase firm performance based on a very large sample of Australian data then I think it makes the regulators case that much easier.