

# Remarks at Mia Freedman's 'Work, Strife, Balance' book launch

## **PRIME MINISTER:**

Well thank you very much Caroline and Mia, congratulations – congratulations on this wonderful book, 'Work, Strife, Balance'.

You know John Howard used to call this the barbeque stopper issue. What you've explained here is that of course, it's impossible to achieve the ideal balance – everybody has to approach it in their own way.

You've set out your own life's journey which is an example as Caroline said, of agility and innovation.

The business you've created here, we're surrounded by all of your team, is an example of somebody that decided to break out of the mould, to do her own thing, to set out on her own path on her own terms.

That is exactly the example that everybody should take on board.

Because we now have the ability in 2017, more than ever, to do that.

So many of the barriers to enterprise, to innovation, have been broken down by technology – the very technologies that Mamamia has taken advantage of, the internet, the smartphone, social media. All of those platforms and technologies that as Mia describes in her book, her old media employers were resistant to, when you were working in the magazine business.

But I think the important lesson here for men, speaking as a man, as your local member, is the reminder that all of us are in it together. All of us, men and women owe it to each other to support each other.

You know, so much of that challenge to find the ideal balance or get closer to it, depends on having more flexible workplaces.

Now clearly there is a lot that governments can do and as you know we've invested additional billions of dollars into better and more flexible, more equitable child care.

But the biggest barrier I've found over the years – and Uncle Julian of course used to work with me and Lucy in years past, so he knows very well how Luce and I operated – one of the biggest challenges that employers face is just a lack of imagination. I mean workplaces can be much, much more flexible with all of the technology we have today. But often employers are lacking in imagination, fail to realise that with all of the collaborative tools that we've got, whether it's Whatsapp or Google Docs or just simply the ability to be connected everywhere and at any time, we don't need to be tying people down to the standard 9 to 5 regimen.

We should be focused on our teams – on what they produce. That's why when Luce and I had our own businesses for many years, we always had a very, very, flexible family-oriented approach. They were strong businesses, successful businesses, but we were focused on what people produced, not how many hours of face time they had at the office.

That of course should apply to men and women.

All of us can lead more flexible lives that enable us better to get that work-life balance, that family balance, family work balance to achieve that more easily nowadays.

So imagination is the key. That's why it's important I think, for model employers to be better talked about, for examples to be better understood so that people can model themselves on them.

Certainly I know in my own office, in the Prime Minister's Office, recognising it's probably one of the more intense working environments in the country, nonetheless we try very, very hard, always to maintain an environment which supports families, which supports that flexibility that enables people to be their most productive, their most loving and their most engaged.

Now, there are so many good pieces of advice in this book, and there's two that I want to draw your attention to.

Mia sets out at the end, advice to her daughter: "Future Lessons For My Daughter".

This is a very powerful passage. She says: "Seek out men who love women, who identify as feminists, who aren't afraid of a woman's strength, or beauty or power. Seek out partners who celebrate your success as if it's their own and who are willing to lean in and out of family and work as you do the same. Complimenting and facilitating true partnership is the only way you can succeed. Feminism does not exclude men, hell no. We need all the soldiers available to help us fight for equality."

"Also," she adds, practical woman that she is: "Without men, we can't make more feminists."

[Laughter]

Look, that has been the basis of Lucy and my partnership over, well, nearly 40 years now – a very long time. We were children when we first met. In fact, when I first asked Lucy to marry me, she said: "Can't we wait until we grow up?"

[Laughter]

We did, or I think we did. I think we did. We were both certainly adults. But it's a long time ago and it will continue forever. But I want to add another piece of great advice here.

She says here in point 25, she says: "If a man ever seriously tries to tell you what to wear, run fast in the other direction".

And then she goes on to say: "Be aware that a man buying clothes for a woman can be a form of control."

But then adds, again, practical as ever: "A woman buying clothes for a man is just a public service."

[Laughter]

So this is a wonderful book Mia, congratulations.

You've underlined the challenges, the difficulties, the impossibilities of finding that ideal balance. But you've been unfiltered in the way you've set it out, you've been so honest and provided, both in this, but above all in your own life such a great example and a reminder that girls, that women, can do anything and everything and should.

It is part of our job, all of our job, men and women, working together to ensure that we create the environment that is flexible enough, respectful enough, loving enough to enable each of us to realise their full potential, in every aspect of their lives.

So I'm honoured and delighted to be here as your local member to launch this book in the bosom of your family in every respect, both the Mamamia family and the Freedman and Lavigne families as well.

So it's great to be here – thank you very much.

[ENDS]

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## [PLA Navy expels US destroyer in S. China Sea](#)



MOD spokesman Senior Colonel Ren Guoqiang takes media questions at a routine press briefing on May 25, 2017. [Photo by Chen Boyuan/China.org.cn]

Chinese navy missile frigates identified and expelled a U.S. destroyer entering the South China Sea on May 25, the Ministry of National Defense (MOD) confirmed the same day.

MOD spokesman Colonel Ren Guoqiang told a routine press briefing that the USS Dewey entered waters adjacent to the Meiji Reef, prompting the PLA Navy missile frigates CNS Liuzhou and CNS Luzhou to identify and warn it to leave the area.

Col. Ren's remark was in response to the request to confirm media reports claiming that the USS Dewey was "within the 12-nautical mile zone of the Meiji Reef" on a so-called "freedom of navigation" mission.

He reaffirmed that China has "indisputable sovereignty" over the Nansha Islands and waters surrounding them. "The Chinese military lodged solemn representations with the United States against such acts of flaunting its forces and boosting regional militarization."

The MOD spokesman stressed that the United States is a destabilizing factor especially when the situation in the South China Sea was being ameliorated as a result of the joint efforts by China and ASEAN countries.

He said a healthy and stable military-to-military relationship was in the common interests of China and the United States whereas "erroneous acts by the U.S. military will only prompt the Chinese military to strengthen its capacity in order to safeguard the country's sovereignty and security."

Earlier this month, the MOD accused the United States of conducting close-in

reconnaissance in the airspace over the Yellow Sea. MOD spokesman Senior Colonel Wu Qian said such spying activities of U.S. military aircraft and vessels were the “fundamental causes” of problems in security issues between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Ren rebuffed Japanese media’s allegation that China was deploying HQ-9 air defense missiles in the southern province of Hainan and was about to mark off a no-fly zone in the South China Sea.

He said that deploying weapons in Hainan was China’s own business within the scope of its sovereignty.

“As for the so-called ‘no-fly zone,’ it is a complete fabrication by the Japanese media. I am astonished by how far the fabrication has gone.”

## Charity project to help children continue their education



Companies and individuals donate more than 6 million yuan for needy children to continue their education during a fundraising night in Beijing on May 24, 2017. [Photo by Li Huiru / China.org.cn]

Just days ahead of International Children’s Day, the Showyes Project, together with Voices of the Youth (Chinese: <http://qnzs.youth.cn/>), launched a fundraising night in Beijing on May 24. The activity is one of a series of charity projects dating back to 2015.

Voices of the Youth, a social networking platform under the All-China Youth Federation, launched the targeted poverty alleviation scheme together with China Social Welfare Foundation's Showyes Project that year in response to Chinese President Xi Jinping's call for "high precision" poverty relief during a Communist Party of China symposium on poverty relief and economic and social development in the 2016-2020 period.

In China's underdeveloped areas, left-behind children whose parents are migrant workers in big cities, orphans and children from very poor families frequently face the risk of being withdrawn from school and even going hungry. Education and skill training are effective ways to help them shake off poverty.

Aiming at helping needy children with vocational training and reeducation, and further supporting them with careers guidance, the project is seen as hopefully helping plug a skills shortage in poor areas.

The object of this fundraising night is to raise enough money to support as many as 1,000 Chinese children continue their education.

During the fundraising activity, Perfect (China) Co., Ltd, together with other caring companies and individuals donated a total amount of more than 6 million yuan, which will benefit poor students from Jiangxi, Sichuan, Guizhou, Hubei, Yunnan, Hebei, Shaanxi and Shanxi provinces to realize their dream of going to school.

According to Jin Dong, an administrative staff member of Voices of the Youth, the activity is one of many important measures in realizing The Middle- and Long-term Youth Development Plan (2016-2025) released recently by the CPC Central Committee and the State Council.

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## [WannaCry hackings expose weaknesses](#)

The recent widespread ransomware cyberattack is a landmark incident showing that computer viruses can attack anyone anywhere rather than just targeting certain groups, senior Chinese cybersecurity officials said.

They also said China must be able to handle similar and even worse attacks in the future.

"WannaCry has no specific target. All Windows users are potentially the targets of the highly infectious virus. It has caused enormous panic among people around the world because it poses a direct threat," said Liu Xinran, deputy director of the National Computer Network Emergency Response Technical Coordination Center.

He made the remarks during the center's 2017 annual conference in Qingdao,



Shandong Province, held Monday to Wednesday.

WannaCry, exploiting a security loophole in Windows, blocks users from accessing their own files. It encrypts data and system files, which the user can then access only by paying \$300 in online bitcoin currency within seven days.

The attacks peaked between May 13 and 14 in China. Some gas stations run by China National Petroleum Corp in several cities could not process card and mobile payments because of the ransomware.

“It’s really difficult to calculate the exact damage the virus has caused in China because it disrupts the normal functions of many organizations, which can hardly be quantified,” said Yan Hanbing, director of the operation department at CNCERT, as the response team is known.

Chen Zhaoxiong, vice-minister of industry and information technology, said that as internet-based services have been deeply integrated into people’s daily activities, such attacks now have more effect on people’s lives than just interrupting cyberspace.

Threats of such attacks already represent severe security threats to key sectors including finance, transportation and energy in China, he added.

“WannaCry is just a warning sign. We need a better defense and warning system for severe attacks that are beyond our imagination in the future,” said Yang Peng, a senior engineer at the center.

“China will be in great danger if similar viruses are used by other governments to start a cyberwar,” he said.

Large corporations cannot afford to have cybersecurity loopholes caused by poor management because it matters to national security, Yang said.

Some corporations in key sectors were completely unaware that hackers implanted a virus in their system three years ago and their data had already been stolen, he added.

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## [Commonwealth and NT forge new partnership on cities](#)

The Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments have entered into an agreement to work together to create a City Deal.

The two governments have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, as a step towards a future City Deal for Darwin that will drive investment, jobs and make life better for communities in the region.

The MOU outlines a number of areas for collaboration between the Commonwealth, Territory and local governments, including:

- Help transform the Territory's capital into a world-class tropical tourist and cultural destination by supporting innovative private and public sector infrastructure investments across all three levels of government.
- Create more jobs by supporting skills and industry development, recognising Darwin's proximity to Asia and opportunities in Defence and agribusiness, and removing barriers to employment.
- Improve housing affordability through a greater choice of housing options; and
- Improve the liveability, amenity and attractiveness of the city centre, including heat reduction in built-up areas, development of green spaces and vibrant arts and cultural experiences.

City Deals are agreements between all three levels of government that prioritise reforms in investment and planning. They are tailored to back local plans and opportunities, to advance individual cities or regions.

It is anticipated that every lever of the Commonwealth, State Government and local government will work together to create jobs and a more liveable city that grows the Northern Australian economy.

The Northern Territory is the fourth jurisdiction to enter into an MOU with the Commonwealth to establish City Deals, as momentum continues to build behind the Smart Cities Plan.

The Smart Cities Plan will position our cities to succeed in the 21st Century economy. It is a plan for supporting productive, accessible, liveable cities that attract talent, encourage innovation and create opportunities for residents.