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**For Immediate Release**

Brisbane, Queensland

### **Biotech Symposium – Reversing the 70:30 rule**

Unlike other high-tech industries, Biotechnology is awash with clever female scientists and technologists – Dr Anna Lavelle, CEO AusBiotech Ltd commented that the industry is male dominated in senior roles such as CEO's of listed companies and Board Director positions.

AusBiotech has joined forces with WiT|Biotech, the Biotech Industry Chapter of Women in Technology to offer a one-day Symposium on the day following the close of the National Conference, in a concerted attempt to encourage women to actively engage and learn from women working in the industry.

Companies now have an additional option to the full conference for their staff, offering a challenging learning program with thought-provoking fabulous female role models presenting the Keynote sessions. The program also includes a range of personal development workshops, and a look into the future in key life sciences sectors.

In the interests of addressing the skills shortage in the life sciences industry, it is critical that that under-employed women with appropriate credentials and skills are encouraged back into the work force.

Both AusBiotech and WiT want to balance the gender ratio in Technical areas, "But we in no way want to exclude men from the Symposium: this is an event with appeal to both sexes with outstanding keynote speakers, controversial panel sessions, professional development and networking opportunities and a unique cocktail party to conclude the day", said Dr Paige Maguire, Chair of WiT|Biotech.

Speakers include:

- Professor Margaret Shiel FRACI C Chem, CEO, Australian Research Council
- Dr Susan Pond, Managing Director, Johnson & Johnson Research Pty Ltd
- Anna Lavelle, CEO, AusBiotech Ltd
- Professor Michael Roberts, NHMRC, Senior Principal Research Fellow, University of Queensland
- Professor Zee Upton, Founder, Tissue Therapies
- Penny Bakagiannis, Director of willbak.com
- Dr Carrie Hillyard, Partner, CM Capital
- Dr Alexandra Winter, Senior Policy Advisor, Office for Women
- Dr Dean Moss, Group Manager – Life Sciences, UniQuest
- Dr Paige Maguire, General Manager – Life Sciences, qutbluebox and Chair, WiT|Biotech

A full program and registration is available at [www.wit.org.au](http://www.wit.org.au) and the Symposium takes place on Thursday 25th October at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

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Photo shows members of the Symposium Organising Committee Anne-Marie Birkill, (Deputy Chair and Founding member WiT|Biotech and CEO, i.lab); Gemma Topping (Tissue Therapies) and Dominic Poon (i.lab)