

Swedish Dads

Media Release

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Corporate Australia shines a light on working fathers

Some of Australia's largest corporate organisations have collaborated with leading working parent education provider, Parents At Work, and the Embassy of Sweden to shine a light on working dads this Father's Day. World renowned photographer, Johan Bävman and his exhibition Swedish Dads is coming to Sydney this September specifically to help raise awareness about the importance of men taking parental leave and the caring challenges faced by all working fathers.

"Only 2% of men in Australia take parental leave and we have been looking for a way to grow this figure by bringing attention to this gender equality issue. Sweden has one of the most generous parental leave schemes in the world, and the exhibition Swedish Dads – recently on display with UNESCO in Paris – has really opened up the debate on a global scale," said Parents At Work CEO, Emma Walsh.

It's the first time the exhibition has travelled to Australia and it has been brought here with the help of Barangaroo precinct organisations Lendlease, WESTPAC GROUP, KPMG, HSBC, PwC, Gilbert + Tobin as part of a joint diversity and inclusion initiative. These organisations have chosen to be involved because they are committed to supporting employees during the time of their life when they are transitioning to parenthood and also when they have caring responsibilities for children.

Leading parenting support provider, Karitane is also sponsoring the exhibition reporting that it provides a special opportunity to emphasise the important role fathers play in the development of their children in a creative and inclusive way. All of these organisations promote a strong focus on diversity and inclusion and actively encourage their male staff to take parental leave and to work more flexibly.



“We are proud to partner with some of Australia’s leading corporate organisations and Parents At Work to bring Swedish Dads, a photo exhibition about gender aware modern men, to Sydney just in time for Father’s Day,” said Sweden’s Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr Pär Ahlberger.

According to Mr Ahlberger this exhibition is also a contribution to the advancement of the 2030 UN Sustainability Development Goals which promote inclusiveness of those with caring commitments.

By sponsoring the exhibition, the organisers want to start a conversation between men, their families and their workplaces to break down stereotypes of men caring for children. It’s hoped the exhibition will send a powerful visual message to fathers to normalise taking parental leave and to lean in to flexible work knowing they are supported by their organisation.

Masterful photographer, [Johan Bävman](#) has also been commissioned to take photographs of Australian working dads while in Sydney.

The exhibition, Swedish Dads portrays 25 fathers in Sweden and is free to the general-public, showing in the foyers of Towers 1, 2 and 3 at International Towers Sydney, Barangaroo on weekdays from the 5th to 29th of September. The official opening of the exhibition is on Monday 4th of September and will feature guest Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, Urban Ahlin, who is on an official visit to Australia.

Parents At Work will also be hosting free online community webinars available to the public via the [Swedish Dads Australia website](#).

Aussie dads and their families are encouraged to enjoy the photos and reflect on ways they can balance work and fatherhood.

For further details or to arrange an interview please contact:

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Produced By



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