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FINSIA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD A CAREER DEFINING OPPORTUNITY

Finsia, Australasia's peak body for finance professionals, today announced the award of the 2016 Hugh DT Williamson scholarship to Finsia member Lucienne Cassidy, a Senior Associate at Ashurst in Melbourne.

The award, valued at \$16,500, will assist Lucienne to complete the Business Essentials for Executives at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania in 2017.

Lucienne's application stood out for the award's judges because of her leadership potential and her commitment to community and social responsibility. At Ashurst, Lucienne has advised on a number of market-leading transactions and complex disputes. As an emerging leader, she is keen to innovate by promoting diversity and inclusion, and disrupting traditional models of billing and reward in professional services.

"When I started my legal career nearly six years ago, few people would have predicted such rapid change in our sector. Clients' expectations have shifted dramatically; more than ever before, they're challenging us to innovate and be creative in how we deliver work and charge for it, and they're demanding gender and ethnically diverse advisors with a range of perspectives to bring to bear. There are no signs that the rate of change is slowing," Lucienne said. "Wharton will build my leadership skills to navigate the new legal landscape, and drive change."

In announcing the award, Finsia CEO Chris Whitehead said: "At Finsia, we're proud to recognise professionalism and support the careers of talented individuals across the industry. The Hugh DT Williamson Scholarship is an important part of that, and Lucienne is a very deserving recipient of this award."

Applications for the 2017 scholarship open early in the new year, and further detail about Finsia scholarships is [available on our website](#).

About the scholarship

The Hugh DT Williamson Scholarship is awarded annually by Finsia to an outstanding young finance professional.

The award is valued at \$16,500, and can be put towards a leadership, education or professional development program of the recipient's choice.

Recent recipients include:

2015: [Jenny Taing SA Fin](#), Vanguard, who completed the High Potential Leadership Program at Harvard.

2014: [Tim Carleton SA Fin](#), Auscap Asset Management, who completed the High Potential Leadership Program at Harvard.

2014: [Jacki Chorazy SA Fin](#), Mercer, who completed the High Potential Leadership Program at Harvard.

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About Finsia

Finsia — the Financial Services Institute of Australasia — is Australasia's premier membership organisation for the financial services industry.

Finsia advances our members' careers by building their capability and professional standing — and by connecting them to leading content, insights and influential networks. Finsia also plays a vital role in strengthening the financial services industry through policy initiatives and respected credentials that drive rigorous professional standards.