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INAUGURAL FINSIA–MONASH MBA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD — IDENTIFYING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

FINSIA, Australasia's peak body for finance professionals, today announced the inaugural award of the 2016 FINSIA–Monash MBA Scholarship to Laura Parr, an Insights and Propositions Manager at AustralianSuper in Melbourne.

The award, valued at \$63,200, is admission and a full fee waiver of The Monash MBA which is a two-year program commencing in February 2017.

This is a joint initiative of FINSIA and the Monash Business School to support and promote the development of emerging financial services sector leaders in Australia.

The scholarship is designed to assist Laura to combine cutting-edge business skills development, extensive practical project experience, opportunities for the completion of an international business project, together with an advanced and integrated leadership and professional practice development program.

Laura's application stood out for the award's judges because of the long-term contribution she felt that she could make to the industry, and super in particular. Laura brings to the Monash MBA unique insight and best practice from the superannuation industry, along with the combination of analytical thinking and creativity.

At AustralianSuper, Laura has made valuable contributions to the development of the proposition and product five-year strategy, including propositions for major business and member segments.

In the next five years, Laura has ambitions to achieve an influential leadership position in marketing in the financial services sector, responding to and addressing key challenges spanning technology, analytics, measurable impact and innovation.

Laura is also a passionate advocate for promoting and enhancing women in the workforce by playing a leading role in committees such as Women in Super (WIS). These committees have positively shaped Laura's outlook and reinforced the importance of drawing upon different perspectives when thinking about and tackling industry issues.

"I love being part of an industry that plays a key role in the Australian economy and helps people plan for their retirement. Working at an industry super fund, I'm in a great position to make positive change in the lives of our members," says Laura.

"I recognise that significant change, technological disruption and macro-economic challenges are likely to affect companies and careers.

"I was inspired to apply for the scholarship as the MBA provides an opportunity to gain fresh perspective, identify new opportunities and be flexible in my career direction.

"Further study allows me an opportunity to be bold and think big to help achieve my long-term goals. This is about taking myself out of the day-to-day detail and seeing the bigger picture."

Professor Richard Hall, Deputy Dean, Leadership and Executive Education said: "We are absolutely delighted to have Laura on the MBA program. As an emerging leader in the superannuation industry

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she has demonstrated a real passion to make a positive impact and she has such tremendous aspirations for the future. We look forward to helping her realise those ambitions.”

In announcing the award, FINSIA CEO Chris Whitehead said: “At FINSIA, we are proud to support and guide the careers of talented individuals like Laura, and work towards raising the standards of professionalism in the financial services industry. The FINSIA–Monash MBA scholarship award is an important part of that, and Laura is a very deserving recipient of this award.”

To read more about Laura’s story go to [InFinance](#).

Further detail about FINSIA scholarships is available on our website.

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About the scholarship

The inaugural FINSIA–Monash MBA scholarship is awarded to an outstanding young finance professional.

The award is valued at \$61,200, which is the admission and a full fee waiver of the Monash MBA, a two-year program commencing in February 2017.

FINSIA. Where the financial leaders go.

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.

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