



Media Release

Perpetual scholarships making a difference to NFPs

2 October 2014

Perpetual has announced that applications are now open for 320 scholarships to help not-for-profit (NFP) organisations enhance their governance.

This is the fourth year the Perpetual Foundation and JS Love Trust, managed by Perpetual, have funded the scholarships which are administered by the Australian Scholarships Foundation (ASF). The scholarships are offered to chairs and board directors of charitable NFPs to attend the Australian Institute of Company Directors' *Governance Foundations for Not-for-Profit Directors* or *Not-for-Profit Chairman* courses.

A research study by the Centre for Social Impact at the University of Western Australia and the Australian Scholarships Foundation, funded by the Origin Foundation, has established links between the scholarship program and improved performance by individual directors and boards.

Specifically, *The Social Return on Education and Training Research Project* found that program participants reported significantly higher levels of confidence six months after the completion of a course. This systematically improved board members' performance and had a subsequent positive impact on their NFP organisation.

Perpetual's General Manager of Philanthropy, Andrew Thomas, said these insights suggest that providing NFPs with help to fund education and organisational development is making a real difference.

"The key roadblock to NFPs accessing education for boards is a lack of available budget to support training and development. By offering a solution to these challenges and funding scholarships, we're hoping to further enhance governance across the sector," Mr Thomas said.

The Australian Institute of Company Directors' NFP Manager, Phil Butler, said the scholarship program is leading to better governance outcomes across the sector.

"Year-on-year we are hearing that governance across the not-for-profit sector is maturing and we believe that an ongoing commitment to individual director and whole-of-board development is critical to this continuing," said Mr Butler.

The Australian Scholarships Foundation's CEO, Amy Lyden, said access to this program is having a significant impact on NFPs.

"Governance continues to be an area of high demand for us. With deepening funding constraints and major changes in the regulatory environment, not-for-profit boards need to be sharp. These scholarships help to remove the barrier to much needed education for boards."

During the past three years, the Perpetual Foundation and JS Love Trust have funded 1,130 scholarships which chairs and board directors in the NFP sector have benefitted from. This number will significantly increase with the additional 320 scholarships to be offered for courses run in 2015.

Applications are open to chairs and directors of charitable NFP organisations until Monday 27 October 2014. The courses will be held in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth in February 2015. For more information and to apply, visit www.scholarships.org.au
For media enquiries, please contact:

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Note: Application queries should be directed to the Australian Scholarships Foundation via www.scholarships.org.au

Note to editors

About Perpetual Philanthropic Services

Perpetual is one of Australia's largest managers and distributors of philanthropic funds with \$2.1 billion in funds under advice (as at 30 June 2014). Perpetual is trustee for more than 960 [charitable trusts and endowments](#) and provides individuals and families with advice on establishing charitable foundations and structured giving programs. Perpetual also assists charities and not-for-profit organisations with [investment advice and management](#).

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About the Australian Scholarships Foundation

Australian Scholarships Foundation (ASF) is the only Australian organisation solely focused on funding and facilitating scholarships for Australian not for profit (NFP) directors and staff to undertake education, training and mentoring programs that improve their ability to lead and manage their organisations. ASF's purpose is to increase the overall effectiveness of the NFP sector through education, training and development of the sector.

ASF has funded and facilitated over \$5m of scholarships for the NFP sector over the last five years and has partnerships with 25 universities and private education providers across Australia. Further information about ASF is available at www.scholarships.org.au

About the Australian Institute of Company Directors

The Australian Institute of Company Directors provides education, information and advocacy for company directors Australia wide, with offices in each state to cater for more than 35,000 members. Our members work in diverse corporations such as small-to-medium enterprises, the ASX200 corporations, public sector organisations, not-for-profit companies, large private companies and smaller private family concern.