

Media Release

Perpetual scholarships open for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business leaders

15 December 2020

Perpetual has announced applications are now open for 17 scholarships to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business leaders to enhance their governance expertise.

Perpetual, as trustee for the Fred P Archer Charitable Trust, has funded the scholarships which are administered by the Australian Scholarships Foundation (ASF). It is the second time the scholarships will be focused exclusively on supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business leaders and will be open to new or existing directors, public officials or senior executives reporting to a board. Recipients will be offered a place at a five-day *Company Directors Course for Indigenous Business Leaders* led by the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD).

Perpetual's Managing Partner, Community and Social Investment, Caitriona Fay, said the scholarships are aimed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders in the business, community and government sectors, with the ambition to provide further support in governance capability and a network of diverse individuals looking to affect positive and long-lasting impact for their organisations.

"We recognise access to education, training and development can be challenging, especially for these businesses and their leaders, and even more so as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact Australia. This is an area of focus for Perpetual and these scholarship opportunities are just one of the initiatives we're undertaking to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders enhance their governance expertise and apply it to their missions.

"We've already seen the impact that these scholarships have had from the first round of scholarships undertaken, so we're pleased to be offering them again specifically to this community".

The Australian Institute of Company Director's Managing Director and CEO, Angus Armour, said, "The AICD is committed to improving access to governance education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We are proud to partner with Perpetual and the Australian Scholarships Foundation to provide these scholarships to Indigenous business leaders.

"We have adapted our flagship education program to target the needs of Indigenous communities and look forward to helping develop the governance capability of the scholarship recipients."

The Australian Scholarships Foundation's CEO, Sam Sayers, also acknowledged the importance of governance education.

"We are delighted to be able to support Indigenous leaders to access governance education. Our partnership with Perpetual and AICD is important because these scholarships provide opportunities that may otherwise be difficult for Indigenous communities to access, and we see first-hand the benefits that governance training brings to recipients and their organisations."

Since 2011, Perpetual in its role as trustee, has funded more than 1,700 scholarships to empower and enhance skills among not-for-profit directors and chairs across Australia, in partnership with ASF and the AICD.

Applications are now open to directors, public officials, and senior executives reporting to a board until Wednesday, 3 February 2021. Applicants need to identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The 17 scholarships include four full scholarships, and 13 part scholarships. The course will be held in June 2021 in Perth (pending COVID-19 official guidelines). For more information and to apply, visit www.scholarships.org.au/educators/aicd

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Note to editors

About Perpetual Philanthropic Services

Perpetual is one of Australia's largest managers and distributors of philanthropic funds with \$2.9 billion in funds under advice for charitable trusts and endowment funds (as at 30 June 2020). Perpetual is trustee for many 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 \$11m of scholarships for the NFP sector since 2008 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 46,000 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.