

NEWS RELEASE

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AFA EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD STATE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Recognition of excellence in education

[Asteron](#) is honoured to sponsor the Association of Financial Advisers (AFA) Excellence in Education Award for the fourth year running.

The awards are dedicated to supporting and rewarding independent financial advisers who undertake the challenge of acquiring knowledge - and applying this knowledge to their business, their clients, their industry and their community.

[Asteron](#) Executive General Manager Jordan Hawke said: "At Asteron, we have a passion for our industry and ensuring its future success. We are partnering with the AFA and getting behind advisers through these awards, because we believe that lifting our professional standards is the key to helping advisers provide more Australians with quality advice."

"Asteron wants the advice industry to be recognised as a profession. The combination of experience and professional education is a necessity for advice professionals, in order for them to offer clients quality advice and build trusted relationships."

The state award winners are:

- Dr. Jim Taggart OAM, Managing Director, Taggart Nominees (NSW)
- Kyle Thompson, Financial Planner, AON (QLD)
- Shaun Hunt, Financial Planner, Genesys Wealth Advisers (SA)
- Matthew Hawkins, Financial Planner, Financial Services Partners (TAS)
- Finn Kelly, Practice Owner, Synchron (VIC)
- Brian Woods, Director, Garvan (WA)

"The Excellence in Education Award allows us to shine the light across Australia to identify and recognise some of Australia's best and brightest advisers," AFA Chief Executive Officer Richard Klipin said.

The AFA's vision of life-long learning and education is embodied in the Excellence in Education Award.

"It's our belief that ongoing education enables our members to deliver better advice outcomes to Australian consumers," Mr Klipin said.

"Judging the high calibre and record number of entrants was very difficult this year, but it is testament that the industry has a strong focus on education standards."

The Judging panel placed a weighting across four areas of criteria, including 60% on candidates' education, 20% on their practice, and 10% on each of their industry and community contributions. Candidates were also judged on their written nomination form. The Judges then conducted phone interviews with short listed candidates.



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The National winner of the AFA Excellence in Education Award will be announced Monday, 24 October, at the 2011 AFA National Conference.

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About Asteron

Asteron is a specialist provider of life insurance to financial advisers in Australia and New Zealand and is a part of the Suncorp Group. Asteron's broad range of life insurance products has been designed to protect customers, their families and businesses against the financial impacts of death, sickness or injury. For further information, visit: www.asteron.com.au

About the Association of Financial Advisers (AFA)

The Association of Financial Advisers (AFA) is the longest running professional financial adviser organisation in Australia and its members have been providing trusted advice to consumers for 65 years. The AFA celebrates its diamond anniversary this year. Through individual memberships and relationships with licensees, the AFA represents over 7,000 members. These members offer a broad range of financial advice services to ordinary Australians with many having specific expertise in risk protection. The AFA aims to: provide a robust united voice for all financial advisers and their clients; continually improve practices and to focus firmly on the exciting, dynamic future of the financial advice profession. With six and a half decades' success, the association's ongoing relevance is due to its philosophy of providing leadership and direction to advisers and their clients. It is an association run by advisers for advisers - this means advisers set the agenda, decide which issues to tackle and shape the organisation's strategic plan.



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