



Media Release

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2015 New Zealand Insurance Industry Awards winners announced

The Australian and New Zealand Institute of Insurance and Finance (ANZIIF) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2015 New Zealand Insurance Industry Awards. The winners were honoured at a ceremony in Auckland last night.

AA Insurance was awarded the title of Direct General Insurance Company of the Year for the fourth consecutive year, after winning in 2012, 2013 and 2014, Rothbury Insurance Brokers was recognised as Large Broker of the Year after winning in 2014, and Partners Life took out Life Insurance Company of the Year for the first time.

The inaugural Women's Employer of the Year prize was awarded to Asteron Life for its strong gender diversity activities, including supporting women into senior leadership and pay equality. Global law firm DLA Piper was recognised as Professional Services Firm of the Year.

This year's Awards also included the recognition of a number of significant industry figures. Insurance Council of New Zealand Chief Executive Tim Grafton was awarded the title of Insurance Leader of the Year for his leadership, support of and commitment to the industry. Naomi Ballantyne of Partners Life, which also won Life Insurance Company of the Year, and Burke Butler of Vero's marine insurance arm, took out dual Lifetime Achievement Awards for their long and successful service to the industry.

Prue Willsford, CEO of ANZIIF, said that customer service was a key theme among Awards submissions and is a marked characteristic of the New Zealand insurance industry.

"New Zealand insurance is recognised internationally as being particularly oriented towards service, but this year we have seen an even greater focus on it," she said.

"With so many high achieving individuals and businesses, it is a privilege to be part of the Awards and to celebrate this dynamic, passionate professional community. New Zealand's insurance industry is certainly one that, despite being a leader on the world stage, strives to improve at every turn."

The full list of winners is:

Small/Medium Broker of the Year

Runacres & Associates Ltd

Large Broker of the Year

Rothbury Insurance Brokers

Direct General Insurance Company of the Year

AA Insurance

Intermediated Insurance Company of the Year

Vero

Life Insurance Company of the Year

Partners Life

Professional Services Firm of the Year

DLA Piper New Zealand

Service Provider to the Insurance Industry

Smith&Smith

Women's Employer of the Year

Asteron Life

Young Insurance Professional of the Year

Adam Rudland, Cigna Life Insurance

Insurance Leader of the Year

Tim Grafton, Insurance Council of New Zealand

Lifetime Achievement Award

Burke Butler, Vero

Naomi Ballantyne, Partners Life

ENDS

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About ANZIIF

The Australian and New Zealand Institute of Insurance and Finance (ANZIIF) is the leading membership body and provider of education, training and professional development services to the insurance and financial services industry in Australia, New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific region.

Established in 1884, ANZIIF has more than 15,000 members in over 50 countries. With offices in Australia, New Zealand and China, our mission is to lead, engage and support the industry through education, thought leadership, community initiatives and the promotion of professional standards. Through our activities, we aim to help members to achieve their career and corporate aspirations and to contribute to the success of the insurance and financial services industry.

Visit www.anziif.com for more information.