

# Media release

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## **“A bright future for the industry”: Insurance’s up-and-coming leaders announced in Awards finalist line-up**

Future insurance leaders have been announced as finalists of the 2015 Australian Insurance Industry Awards in a new category designed to highlight and promote the role of up-and-coming talent in the success of the industry.

Victoria Norden of Auto and General, Katherine Ashby of BT Financial Group, Chris Healey of Swiss Re, and Alexandra Blannin-Ferguson of Willis have been announced as finalists of the first Young Insurance Professional Award, a category which recognises emerging talent in under 35s.

“The finalists for Young Insurance Professional represent the best that the insurance business has to offer and indicate a bright future for the industry,” said Prue Willsford, CEO of Australian and New Zealand Institute of Insurance and Finance, which hosts the Awards with co-founder Asia Insurance Review.

“It is an incredible honour to be a finalist for this category in an industry of passionate and hardworking people. As an insurance professional, particularly in life insurance, we’re in a privileged position to make an enormous difference in people’s lives. Working in life insurance gives me a higher purpose, and I’m fortunate to have found a career in which I can experience that,” said Katherine Ashby, Senior Product Technical Manager, Life Insurance at BT Financial Group.

“It is fantastic to have an award that recognises the skillset of younger professionals and acknowledges the diversity of thought future generations can bring into the insurance industry,” said Chris Healey, Head of Claims & Technical Accounting L&H, Swiss Re Australia & New Zealand

The Young Insurance Professional Award coincides with a major cross-industry initiative, currently in development, to promote insurance careers among university graduates and high school students. The initiative aims to increase awareness of, interest in and access to opportunities in insurance.

“Insurance is a hugely important industry and, as a service business, requires great talent to move it forward. We hope that our finalists will serve as examples to young Australians of the fulfilling, diverse career options that insurance has to offer,” Willsford said.

The winner will be announced at the Australian Insurance Industry Awards in Sydney on 19 August 2015.

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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.