

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **A Night to Remember: Celebrating Excellence at the Inaugural Australian Financial Industry Awards**

*Sydney, 22 November 2024*

The Four Seasons Hotel Sydney hosted the dazzling inaugural Australian Financial Industry Awards, presented by the Institute of Financial Professionals Australia (IFPA). Guests enjoyed an evening of exceptional food, champagne, and camaraderie, celebrating the achievements of outstanding professionals and practices across the financial services sector.

The event honoured excellence across 18 award categories and six Outstanding Achievement certificates, recognising professionals and practices in SMSF auditing, bookkeeping, accounting, financial services, and beyond.

#### **Major Awards and Winners**

##### **Accountant of the Year:**

Winner: Helen Francis

Outstanding Achievement: Cristiane Medalha Sinchetti

##### **Accounting Practice of the Year: 10 or Less Employees:**

Winner: Mead Partners

Outstanding Achievement: Austral Accountants

##### **Accounting Practice of the Year: 11 or More Employees:**

Winner: Factor1 Accountants & Advisers

Outstanding Achievement: WHM Partners Pty Ltd

**Auditor of the Year:** Christine McWilliams

**Bookkeeper of the Year :** Tracey Rubens



**Financial Adviser of the Year:**

Winner: Nicola Beswick

Outstanding Achievement: Kylie Abbey

**Financial Services Practice of the Year: 10 or Less Employees:**

Winner: Peak Wealth Management

Outstanding Achievement: GDA Financial Services Pty Ltd

**Financial Services Practice of the Year: 11 or More Employees:**

Finchley and Kent

**Holistic Advice Business of the Year:**

Find Group

**Institute of Financial Professionals Australia (IFPA) Member of the Year:**

Sarah Foggie

**Practice Principal of the Year:**

Winner: Keegan Harper

Outstanding Achievement: Teddy Kosasih

**Rising Star of the Year:**

Ali Haidari

**Thought Leader of the Year:**

Ben Nash

**Wellness Program/Initiative of the Year:**

Preston Point Capital

**Industry Media of the Year – People's Choice:**

Superannuation/Financial Services: selfmanagedsuper

Accounting: Accountants Daily

**The evening's most prestigious accolades recognised:**

Australian Financial Professional of the Year: Nicola Beswick, who achieved the highest individual score.

Australian Financial Practice of the Year: Find Group, awarded for their exemplary group performance.

## **A Reflection on the Night**

Ky Wilson, IFPA's Acting General Manager and creator and director of the awards programme, reflected on the event's success:

*"This event has been a labour of love, born out of a desire to recognise and celebrate the exceptional contributions of financial professionals, particularly those in the SME sector. These individuals and practices work tirelessly, often without the advantages of larger firms, and tonight was about giving them the platform and recognition they truly deserve."*

She continued, *"The overwhelming response to our inaugural awards highlights the strength and passion within our industry, and I am proud to have been part of this celebration of excellence."*

Helen Francis, Accountant of the Year, remarked:

*"It's an honour to receive this recognition among so many accomplished peers. It inspires me to continue striving for excellence with my SME clients."*

Sam El Shamma, director of Finchley and Kent, winners of Financial Services Practice of the Year: 11 or More Employees, said:

*"This award is a testament to the dedication and passion of our entire team. To have our hard work recognised in this way is truly rewarding."*

## **Setting the Standard for the Future**

The evening celebrated not only individual and team excellence but also fostered collaboration and camaraderie across the industry. With the overwhelming success of the inaugural event, the Australian Financial Industry Awards has firmly established itself as the premier event recognising excellence in financial services.

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### **About Institute of Financial Professionals Australia**

The Institute of Financial Professionals Australia (originally known as Taxpayers Australia, and more recently Tax & Super Australia) has been serving members for over 100 years and is a leading financial professionals association dedicated to fostering excellence and professional development in the tax, accounting, superannuation, financial planning, and advisor fields. With a membership and subscriber base of over 15,000 practitioners and a strong commitment to advancing knowledge, promoting ethical practices, and providing valuable resources, the Institute of Financial Professionals Australia empowers professionals to excel in their careers and make a significant impact in the financial industry.

For more information, visit [www.ifpa.com.au](http://www.ifpa.com.au)