INSTITUTE OF FINANCIAL PROFESSIONALS AUSTRALIA

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MEDIA RELEASE

New leadership elected to guide 106-year-old Institute of Financial Professionals Australia

The Institute of Financial Professionals Australia (IFPA), a 106-year-old not-for-profit membership association and professional home for tax, superannuation and financial advice practitioners, has announced the election of new office bearers following its recent Annual General Meeting.

Respected practitioner and director Scott Heathwood has been elected President and Chairman of IFPA. Kurtis Alaeddin has been elected Vice President, and outgoing Chairman Stephen Ware will continue to serve the association as Treasurer.

The changes reflect a planned and orderly board succession process that maintains continuity of experience while positioning IFPA for its next phase of growth in advocacy, member value and professional standards across the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector.

For more than a century, IFPA has stood alongside tax agents, accountants, superannuation and SMSF professionals, auditors, bookkeepers and more recently financial advisers, providing them with practical technical support, continuing professional education and a strong voice in Canberra on issues that affect small and family businesses. The association's focus remains on policies that reward effort, uphold personal responsibility and allow private enterprise to thrive without unnecessary red tape.

Scott Heathwood, President and Chairman

Newly elected President and Chairman, Scott Heathwood, said he was honoured to take on the role at such a pivotal time for both the profession and the wider SME community, as IFPA consolidates its position across tax, superannuation and the rapidly growing financial services sector.

“It is a privilege to be elected President and Chairman of a 106-year-old association that has consistently backed the people who keep the real economy moving,” Mr Heathwood said.

“A key focus in my term will be strengthening IFPA’s presence in the financial services sector, deepening our relationships with self licensed and boutique advice practices that are driving innovation and genuine client care.”

“My priority is to ensure IFPA continues to champion the efforts of those practices, arguing for fair, stable and predictable policy settings that support private enterprise rather than hinder it. We will keep investing in practical tools, robust CPD and advocacy, so that self licensed firms and boutique advisers see IFPA as their natural professional home.”

Kurtis Alaeddin, Vice President

Newly elected Vice President Kurtis Alaeddin brings substantial experience working with advisers and accountants in the SME space. His appointment reflects IFPA’s commitment to serving converging professional disciplines under one umbrella.

“I am delighted to take on the role of Vice President at a time when the lines between tax, superannuation and advice are increasingly converging,” Mr Alaeddin said.

“Practitioners need one trusted association that understands their reality in practice and stands up for them when regulation overreaches. I look forward to working with Scott, Stephen, Ky and the rest of the board to strengthen IFPA’s services, broaden our reach and ensure the voice of the independent practitioner is clearly heard.”

Ky Wilson, Chief Executive Officer

IFPA Chief Executive Officer Ky Wilson said the new office bearers combined fresh leadership with deep knowledge of the association's history and purpose.

"Board renewal is healthy for any association, particularly one with more than a century of service behind it," Ms Wilson said.

"Scott, Kurtis and Stephen each understand that IFPA exists for working professionals in tax, superannuation, accounting and advice, with a strong emphasis on the SME sector. They are committed to principles that matter to our members: personal responsibility, reward for effort and a regulatory environment that supports, rather than stifles, private enterprise."

About the Institute of Financial Professionals Australia (IFPA)

The Institute of Financial Professionals Australia is a not-for-profit membership association that has been serving professionals for more than 100 years. IFPA is the association of choice for tax agents, accountants, superannuation and SMSF specialists, auditors, bookkeepers and financial advisers, with a particular focus on those servicing the small and medium enterprise sector.

The association provides practical technical guidance, structured continuing professional education, events, publications and digital tools, along with a strong advocacy voice to government, regulators and industry. IFPA's mission is to support members in delivering high-quality advice, meeting their professional and regulatory obligations and contributing to a strong, productive sector.