

Press release



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New partners join Future IM/Pact campaign as industry rallies to boost diversity

SYDNEY, Monday 18 March 2019: Future IM/Pact has signed two new partners ahead of its first major student networking events for 2019 happening in Sydney and Melbourne this week.

Challenger Limited and Macquarie Securities are the latest organisations to join the campaign aimed at attracting more diverse talent into investment management with an initial focus on women. They join 12 other super funds, fund managers and industry participants who are providing a pathway for students and early career aspirants to build their career prospects in this high growth and hugely influential sector.

Chris Plater, Chief Executive and Chief Investment Officer of Challenger Life, said the firm's decision to join the project reflects their ongoing commitment to building diverse teams.

"We realised that attracting women into our business requires grassroots education about what a career in investments offers. We're delighted to be working alongside other industry leaders to raise the profile of this profession and provide meaningful opportunities for young people to get a foot in the door," he said.

For Macquarie Securities Head of Research, Kristen Edmond, the opportunity to work alongside key fund manager clients across their Sydney and Melbourne offices to solve this entrenched issue was a significant drawcard.

"Addressing an industry-wide challenge like this requires collaboration across all aspects of industry. It's refreshing to be able to partner with our clients to implement practical solutions aimed at building our future talent pipeline," Edmond said.

Future IM/Pact founder Yolanda Beattie said new partners bring funding and scale to grow the campaign, and work experience and employment opportunities to the hundreds of students who are engaging with the campaign.

"We're seeing overwhelming demand for our student networking events with over 250 students expected at our events this week and about the same amount having to be turned away due to venue capacity constraints," she said.

Future IM/Pact will run events on 18 March in Melbourne and 19 March in Sydney aimed at helping students understand the impact that investors have on the economy and the opportunities for young women to build a thriving career in this sector.

The Melbourne keynote speaker is Mark Middleton, Group CEO of Icon Group, a QIC private equity investment. Gail Williamson, Chief Growth Officer for WiseTech Global and Yasmin Allan, Non-Executive Director at the ASX Limited and Cochlear Limited will headline the Sydney event. Panels of investors will also share their career stories at both sessions.

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About Future IM/Pact

[Future IM/Pact](#) is an industry initiative aimed at attracting more diverse talent into the investment teams of fund managers, super funds and industry participants. The project was launched in July 2018 with founding partners Mercer, AustralianSuper, Future Fund, HESTA, QIC, Cbus Super, NAB Asset Management, Pandal, Magellan and Wavestone. Since then, Nikko Asset Management, Fidelity International, Yarra Capital Management, Challenger Limited and Macquarie Securities have joined the project.