



FEMALES IN FINANCE INDUSTRY

**Speech Notes**

**FIFI – Females in the Finance Industry**

**CITIGROUP - The Australian Indigenous Education Foundation**

**Date:** 1 May 2008

**By:** Amy Somes

Before I begin I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land we are gathered on – the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation – and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. Minister Linda Burney who is speaking next will do a formal welcome to country.

A warm welcome to you all from fifi, we thank you for attending and hope the night is as successful as last time.

Firstly I want to thank Citigroup for putting on this evening, they have gone to a big effort to make it a special night.

We also now have a website Fififund.org which has all our information on it and the charities we are supporting. We have to thank C4 who is part of Photon Group for doing it pro bono for us.

For those of you who weren't at our cocktail party last year I just want to do a quick recap of what fifi's mission is. 18 months ago a group of women from both broking and funds management came together with the common goal of wanting to put something back into the local community. We wanted to support local charities with a focus on families and education. We then thought it would be a great idea to bring together females from our industry to network and also help support these charities. Our hope is to support a number of charities over time thru events like this and our own charitable foundation. The door collection tonight will go to this foundation as it did last year. We currently have \$60k in the foundation.

Last year we supported a terrific cause in PIFA, the Parent Infant Foundation of Australia. PIFA was set up to support vulnerable families during pregnancy and the early years of parenting. Part of PIFA's work that fifi is helping to support is their work with young aboriginal families and mothers in Redfern, thru their home visiting program. With the more than \$18k we raised on the night last year we are currently supporting work with two aboriginal families. PIFA thru the contacts that they made on that night were



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able to raise a further \$60k with a large contributor being BOS International group. So well done all of you for your great support and for your companies support as well. If you are interested in reading about the work PIFA is doing we have some handouts out the front. There are also two people from PIFA here tonight, Maggie and Kristina.

The next charity that we are supporting tonight is also focused on an indigenous cause. Whilst PIFA's focus is on health and wellbeing the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation, tonight's charity, is focused on education.

And it is education that is one of the most important keys to help breakdown the inequalities between indigenous and non indigenous Australians.

The Australian Indigenous Education Foundation will formally launch next month with its aim to provide scholarships for indigenous girls to attend high performing boarding schools. It was founded by Andrew Penfold who is also behind the successful St Joseph's College indigenous fund which provides scholarships for indigenous boys.

Andrew spent 10 years as a lawyer and then 10 years in investment banking before deciding to move full time into the charitable space. He is very inspiring, the foundations that Andrew is setting up will help provide a real chance of a quality education for indigenous children who would not otherwise be able to access those schools and in an environment that respects their indigenous culture and specifically caters for them.

If you would like to make a direct donation to this charity we will be out the front with donation slips. Also a painting has been donated by Craig Ashby. Craig is from Walgett and was one of the Indigenous students at Joeys. When he started their in Year 9 he couldn't read or write. Four years later he finished his HSC and is now in his 3rd year at Sydney Uni studying to be come a teacher – and as you will see he is also a talented artist.

We will conduct a silent auction, closing it off at 8.15pm. Craig has donated the painting so that the funds will go to The Australian Indigenous Education foundation to assist scholarships for indigenous girls.



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Finally before I finish I just want to mention that the next area that we are looking to support is helping families and children with autism. If any of you know of a local charity that we can support in this area please get in contact with us.

Next up I have the great honour of introducing Minister Linda Burney, Minister for Fair Trading, Youth and Volunteering. After Linda Andrew Penfold will speak and then he will also introduce some of the girls and talk to them about their experiences.

Linda Burney is a member of the Wiradjuri nation. In 2003 she became the first Aboriginal woman to be elected to the NSW Parliament, winning the seat of Canterbury. Following the 2007 State Election, Linda was appointed Minister for Fair Trading, Youth and Volunteering. She is also Vice President of the Australian Labor Party and has been a great supporter of the work of St Josephs college Indigenous Fund and Australian Indigenous Education Foundation. Linda started her career as a teacher and spent many years in the education sector, leading to an Honorary Doctorate in Education from Charles Sturt University. Therefore she is very well positioned to talk to us about the importance of education, please welcome Linda.