

### **Australian Centre for Financial Studies Launch**

On Wednesday 7th July 2010 the Hon. Chris Bowen together with John Lenders MP and Professor Deborah Ralston, Director of the Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies, will launch the Australian Centre for Financial Studies. With the full support of the Centres' new Corporate Sponsors GOLD – ANZ Trustees and KPMG; SILVER – PricewaterhouseCoopers and CORPORATE SUPPORTER KordaMentha; the Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies will become the Australian Centre for Financial Studies (ACFS).

Since the inception of the Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies (MCFS) in 2005, with seed funding from the Victorian Government and support from its consortium members, Monash, RMIT and Melbourne Universities and Finsia, more than A\$2million additional revenue has been sourced with over A\$1.5million in research grants distributed to finance academics whom have undertaken in excess of 60 research projects.

In October 2009 in conjunction with Mercer and DIIRD the MCFS released the first Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index, and in February 2010 for the first time, they managed and delivered the Melbourne Financial Services Symposium. The MCFS has and continues to take a keen interest in public policy and regulatory issues, and has conducted numerous Conferences and symposia on financial regulation, superannuation governance Islamic financial services and Australia's role as a financial centre for the Asia Pacific.

Professor Ralston said that "at this stage we needed to extend our role by highlighting the strength of the Australian financial services sector and the complimentary attributes of financial sectors in Sydney and Melbourne, to assist Australia's development as a global financial hub. Increasing our capacity to undertake contracted research and consulting projects in-house, especially in areas that inform the public interest, further expand the university network to universities outside of the initial consortium in Victoria and other states to draw on a wider academic resource and, finally, attract the commitment of larger nationally based sponsors to pursue broader industry partnerships with nationally based organisations establishing links with similar centres internationally."

Professor Ralston added that "Drawing on expertise from academia, industry and government, the Centre promotes excellence in financial services. The Centre provides access to and links between academics, finance practitioners and government and draws on expertise and experience from across these groups, to facilitate and disseminate knowledge creation and transfer throughout the greater finance community via its various activities."

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