

## New partnership to deliver next generation of Indigenous business leaders

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### MEDIA RELEASE

**SYDNEY, January 2018:** Developing the next generation of indigenous business leaders and ensuring they are equally represented in senior business positions is the focus of a new partnership announced today between independent capital solutions firm, Maia Financial, and CareerTrackers Indigenous Internship Program.

In Australia, Indigenous university students make up 1.6 per cent of domestic student enrolments, a number that has risen incrementally over the years. Studies show strong links between education and employment, with little to no gap in employment between Indigenous, and non-Indigenous Australians at tertiary levels of education.

CareerTrackers is a national not-for-profit organisation that creates paid internship opportunities for Indigenous university students in the professional private sector. The aim of the program is to create a network of Indigenous professionals that play an active role in supporting the next generation of students. Now in its eighth year, the program has successfully placed more than 1,354 students into internships and with 89% of students graduating from university there are 485 CareerTrackers Alumni who are working in full-time employment.

Maia Financial's partnership with CareerTrackers represents a new initiative that enables the program to extend its focus beyond internships, with a vision to see greater representation of Indigenous people in senior leadership positions.

To achieve this vision, Maia Financial will back CareerTrackers to develop an ongoing leadership program that aims to support the alumni as they progress their respective careers. The program will include a series of professional development workshops focussing on areas including personal brand management, CEO keynotes and boardroom style events, as well as Maia Financial business leaders and employees acting as mentors to alumni.

"We are delighted to have commenced this partnership and have already begun connecting with alumni. It's inspiring to see how accomplished these individuals are and their continued commitment to furthering their careers," Daniel Blizzard, CEO of Maia Financial said.

"There is a lack of established support systems for Indigenous students once they graduate and enter the workforce and this is something we felt passionately about as a business. We actively sought out partnership opportunities with like-minded organisations and found that our values and goals aligned with the work that CareerTrackers was doing.

"Together, we are elevating their existing program to further support Indigenous people as they enter the workforce with a vision to have an indigenous CEO in one of Australia's top 50 companies by 2030.

"As a business, it is our responsibility to acknowledge the community in which we operate and our partnership with CareerTrackers is our way of equipping our community's next generation of leaders with the tools to succeed."

Michael Combs, Founder and CEO at CareerTrackers, echoed Maia Financial's sentiment and noted the positive impact such a partnership can have on the organisation's long-term vision.

"By 2020, there will be more than 1,000 CareerTrackers Alumni in the Australian workforce and already we are seeing the benefits of this program on the wider community, with many of our alumni stepping up as mentors and developing students who have just begun their journey at university.

"By establishing foundational partnerships with reputable businesses in the private sector, such as Maia Financial, we are positively contributing to creating more equal opportunities for Indigenous Australians," Mr Combs said.

Mr Blizzard concluded, "This partnership also provides an opportunity for our employees to get involved in a program that is making a real difference, allowing them to achieve a greater sense of purpose. It is early days but pleasingly, we are already seeing the positive impacts of our contributions in our workplace and the broader community."

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**About Maia Financial**

Maia Financial is a leading, independent capital solutions provider with more than 25 years' experience. Maia Financial have a portfolio of clients across Australia and New Zealand, serviced by our offices in each region. Maia Financial is owned by Monash Private Capital (MPC), an Australian-based, independent principal investor that is committed to the long-term success of Maia Financial. MPC is backed by reputable global organisations, including Kirsh Group, Genesis Capital, KKR and Highbridge Principal Strategies.