



## MEDIA RELEASE

**Sydney, Tuesday 25 August 2009**

### **ALUCA & TurksLegal Launch 2009 Scholarship for Life Insurance Professionals**

ALUCA together with TurksLegal are delighted to launch the 2009 ALUCA TurksLegal Scholarship.

In its third year, the Scholarship has established itself as a prominent fixture on the calendar of activities for life insurance professionals.

The successful collaboration between ALUCA and TurksLegal commenced in 2007 when the inaugural Scholarship was awarded to promote the exchange of ideas on leading issues vital to the future of the life insurance industry, and to provide career development opportunities for professionals working in the field. The partnership continues as does the commitment to showcase the talent and professionalism within Australia's life insurance industry.

ALUCA President, Ms Tracey Peters says the scholarship is an opportunity for the industry's brightest to display their insight and expertise:

"As the national body for life insurance underwriting and claims professionals, ALUCA is committed to providing professional development opportunities for members. We view the scholarship and our collaboration with TurksLegal as a way of contributing to the education and career development of our members and a way to promote industry best practice in the life insurance space."

This year's scholarship winner will be awarded a conference package which includes airfares, accommodation, spending money and registration to one of four life insurance conferences held overseas.

2008 ALUCA TurksLegal Scholarship winner, Elizabeth McCarthy-Jones, from ING Australia, attended the Eastern Claims Conference in New York as part of her prize. Of her scholarship experience Elizabeth said, "Winning the 2008 Scholarship has been extremely beneficial for me both on a professional and personal level. It has provided me with the opportunity to challenge myself professionally by addressing big picture issues in my paper which have

relevance to the insurance industry at large, in addition to meeting and exchanging ideas with fellow life insurance colleagues from around the world.”

The Scholarship first runner up will receive a \$1,000 Red Balloon Day gift voucher and the second runner up will receive a \$250 restaurant voucher.

Questions for this year's scholarship have been released and include topics on:

- Getting Better Medical Information
- Electronic New Business
- Retail versus Group Cover
- Genetic Testing
- The Next Big Thing in Life Insurance

Scholarship entrants are required to base their papers on one of the five topics available and submit an answer in 3,000 words or less.

“Questions this year are designed to stimulate debate and showcase the expertise of life insurance professionals”, said John Myatt, head of TurksLegal’s Insurance & Financial Services practice.

“The Judging Panel this year will look at entries based on a clear understanding and insight of the chosen topic, a strong research foundation and conclusions supported by sound evidence, clarity of thought and commercial acumen.”

As a member of the Judging Panel, Mr Myatt is joined by TurksLegal Partners, Mr Alph Edwards and Ms Lisa Norris, in addition to Ms Tassin Barnard, CEO of MetLife Insurance Ltd; Mr Phil Hay, Head of Life Insurance at BT Financial Group; Mr Jim Minto, Managing Director of TOWER Australia; Mr Simon Swanson, former Managing Director of Commlnsure; ALUCA is represented by the National President, Ms Tracey Peters and ALUCA Committee member, Ms Kristen Malanot.

“We are fortunate to have some of Australia’s leading industry professionals on our judging panel this year to provide us with the benefit of their insight and knowledge throughout the judging process. We are pleased to welcome Tassin Barnard and Phil Hay to the panel for the first time and thank Allan Griffiths, John Salamito and Tony O’Leary for their time and support as members of last year’s panel,” said Mr Myatt.

Entry to the 2009 Scholarship is now open. The closing date for papers is 30 October 2009 with winners announced in December 2009.

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## **About TurksLegal**

TurksLegal is a specialist law firm with offices in Sydney and Melbourne.

Established in 1981, the firm acts for a number of financial institutions, insurance companies, government departments, corporations, small to medium employers and individuals.

It provides a comprehensive range of legal services in practice areas that include:

- Insurance & Financial Services
- Commercial Disputes & Insolvency
- Workers Compensation
- Business & Property
- Workplace Relations

For more information please visit: [www.turkslegal.com.au](http://www.turkslegal.com.au)

## **About the Australian Life Underwriting and Claims Association Incorporated (ALUCA)**

ALUCA was founded in 1986 to advance the knowledge and professionalism of its members in underwriting and claims issues relating to life and disability insurance products in Australia and New Zealand. ALUCA's principal activities are to promote learning through:

- Formal education for underwriters and claims professionals
- Peer group interaction
- Seminars and conferences
- Underwriting and claims research, and
- Industry newsletter.

For more information please visit: [www.aluca.com](http://www.aluca.com)

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