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The Foundation For Young Australians And Education Foundation To Form An Alliance And Appoint Joint CEO

The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) and Education Foundation (EF) today announced the formation of an alliance, which will bring together an impressive range of capabilities in the youth and education sectors. The FYA also announced the appointment of Adam Smith, one of Australia's youngest and most successful philanthropic leaders, as CEO of the combined organisation effective immediately.

The FYA will bring its strengths in grant-making, indigenous programs, capacity building and scholarships together with EF's proven track record in the development and delivery of education programs, community engagement, and research.

The combined organisation will have a greater capability to advocate in ways that make a real and positive impact to the lives of Young Australians. The increased focus on education is consistent with both organisations beliefs in enhancing opportunity through learning and skills development.

Commenting on his appointment, Adam said, "This is an incredibly exciting time for both Foundations and I'm honoured to have the opportunity to lead the alliance going forward. I believe our combined strengths will give us a stronger platform to extend our activities where the need is greatest. The opportunities for young people, our staff and our many business, philanthropic and government partners will increase significantly as a result of this alliance".

Over the last few years Adam has led EF through a period of significant transformation and has become an outstanding advocate for youth development, education and strategic philanthropy. Adam sits on the Board of The International Youth Foundation and has addressed the United Nations General Assembly.

Mark Paton, the new Chairman of The FYA, commented, “The alliance is the result of a bold aspiration shared by the two Boards and establishes The FYA as the pre-eminent advocate for young Australians. Adams appointment as CEO exemplifies our belief in young people and we look forward to working with him. I’d also like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Board, to acknowledge the contribution of Bill Conn who, under the tenure rules of the Foundation, retires today. Over the last 8 years, Bill has made a tremendous contribution and has left us in a strong position to take The FYA to the next level. I’m also delighted to welcome Ellen Koshland, founder of EF and their Chair, Don Larkin to the board of The FYA”.

The FYA and EF aim to formalise the alliance and begin operating as one organisation from the end of July 2008. In the interim all existing activities will continue to operate as normal. More information on The FYA can be found at www.youngaustralians.org and EF at www.educationfoundation.org.au.

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