



MEDIA ALERT

LAUNCH OF SNOW FOUNDATION-PINNACLE FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP

TODAY, WEDNESDAY 28 MAY, 6PM, Museum of Australian Democracy
(Old Parliament House), Private Dining Room No.2

Media Release Embargo: 6pm, 28 May 2014

FOUNDATIONS OFFER BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR MARGINALISED STUDENTS

Disadvantaged young people in the ACT who identify as lesbian, gay, intersex or transgender now have an opportunity to seek financial assistance with their studies, thanks to a new partnership between The Snow Foundation and The Pinnacle Foundation.

The Pinnacle Foundation is a national organisation established five years ago to provide scholarships in their chosen fields of study to LGBTIQ youth who are marginalised or disadvantaged. The Foundation currently administers 26 scholarships across the country.

The Snow Foundation has partnered with The Pinnacle Foundation to bring the program to Canberra, through an endowment of funds that allows Pinnacle to award annual scholarships to ACT students.

Chief Executive of the Snow Foundation, Georgina Byron said: "We are looking forward to working with Pinnacle to offer scholarships in the ACT. We have seen the fruit of their work elsewhere in Australia and we think this partnership will have lasting benefits for local disadvantaged LGBTIQ young people."

Sean Linkson, CEO and Founder of The Pinnacle Foundation said: "We're about providing financial and mentoring support to LGBTIQ youth who may not be able to achieve their educational or career goals on their own. This partnership with The Snow Foundation will help us realise those goals for marginalised young people in Canberra."

The alliance between the two charitable groups will be launched formally today by Deputy Chief Minister Andrew Barr, along with the ACT's first Snow Foundation Pinnacle Scholar, ANU first year student, Daniel Wang.

The Pinnacle Foundation will also announce its new Patron, Lieutenant Colonel Catherine McGregor AM, who has been speech writer to the Chief of Army and became the Army's highest ranking transgender individual. LtCol McGregor will join current patrons, former High Court Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG and former AMA President Professor Kerryn Phelps AM in the role.

"I am honoured to be invited to join Michael Kirby and Kerryn Phelps as Patrons of the Pinnacle Foundation. They are inspiring role models for young people who are seeking to live with integrity and authenticity," LtCol McGregor said.

"The Foundation's aim of assisting young LGBTI people to complete higher education is especially important and one that attracted me to this important role. I am particularly grateful to the Snow Foundation for its generous support of this vital work."

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