



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **CANTEEN AUSTRALIA CHIEF WINS NATIONAL EQUITY TRUSTEES' NOT FOR PROFIT CEO AWARD**

The Chief Executive Officer of CanTeen Australia has won an award for achievement in his first year as a CEO of a Not For Profit organisation.

Dr Andrew Young, CEO of CanTeen Australia, has won the Equity Trustees' 2005 First Year Achiever Award for his efforts in turning around an organisation that was in turmoil and re-building CanTeen into an organisation that provides important support and services to young people living with cancer.

The Equity Trustees' Not For Profit CEO Awards recognise outstanding achievements of chief executives working in the Not For Profit and charitable sector.

There were close to 90 nominations for the awards this year from across Australia. The awards recognise excellence in delivering services, enhancing the organisation's image and for building strong and successful partnerships.

Andrew, who was previously the national marketing and relationships manager with The Smith Family, has been the Chief Executive Officer of CanTeen since January 2004. He is strongly committed to building a better understanding of the needs of young people with cancer and to responding to and developing programs that meet those needs.

When Andrew was appointed, CanTeen had a \$1.7 m deficit in the previous year, a significant fraud (\$300,000) had been recently discovered and the organisation suffered from a staff turnover of about 50%.

In the 2004/05 financial year, CanTeen, under Andrew's leadership, achieved a financial turnaround with a surplus of \$1.5 million, mainly through fundraising and partnerships. He has also successfully re-engaged staff as evidenced by an independent survey and he initiated a complete review of financial systems.

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CanTeen brings together young people living with cancer. Its members are aged between 12 and 24. They are cancer patients, siblings of cancer patients and young people with parents or primary carers who have cancer. CanTeen provides members with the opportunity to meet and share their personal experiences. It is also a place where young people can have time out from the everyday experience of living with cancer. It provides an opportunity to develop skills, to learn more about cancer, its treatment and side-effects, and strategies to cope with living with the cancer.

“CEOs of Not For Profit and charitable organisations receive precious little reward or recognition for their efforts, yet their jobs can be difficult, demanding and challenging,” said Equity Trustees Chief Executive Officer, Peter Williams.

“They routinely face funding shortfalls and difficulties maintaining services, but nevertheless they roll up their sleeves and get on with the job as they take their organisation forward and leave it stronger. Equity Trustees is proud to be honouring Not For Profit CEOs and recognising their commitment, passion, drive and sacrifice.”

The winners of the Equity Trustees’ 2005 Not For Profit CEO Awards, announced at a gala dinner on Tuesday 11 October as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Philanthropy Conference, are:

**Equity Trustees’ Not For Profit CEO of the Year:** Bella Irlicht, Principal of the Port Phillip Specialist School

**Equity Trustees’ Significant Innovation Award:** Alexandra Gartmann, CEO, Birchip Cropping Group Inc

**Equity Trustees’ First Year Achiever Award:** Dr Andrew Young, CEO, CanTeen Australia

**Equity Trustees’ Long Term Achiever Award:** Rev. Dr Gordon Moyes, Superintendent, Wesley Mission, Sydney

**Equity Trustees’ Judges’ Award Joint winners:** Michael Traill, CEO Social Ventures Australia and Maud Clark, CEO and Artistic Director, Somebody’s Daughter Theatre Company Inc

The sponsors of the Equity Trustees’ 2005 NFP CEO Awards are: Deloitte and Citigroup (gold sponsors), AON Australia and Foster’s Group (silver sponsors), Bell Potter Securities, Grange Securities, Melbourne & Olympic Parks (bronze sponsors) and Equity Trustees.

The Awards recognise the true worth of those who lead not for profit and charitable organisations.

**ENDS**

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### **Photo Gallery**

Digital photos of the winners at the Awards presentation are available for downloading from Equity Trustees’ website at: [www.eqt.com.au/ceoawards/gallery](http://www.eqt.com.au/ceoawards/gallery)

***Equity Trustees’ CEO Awards – Recognising the true worth  
of those who lead not for profit organisations***

