

MEDIA RELEASE

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IFA recognises outstanding contribution to financial advice profession

The Institute of Financial Advisers (IFA) recognised one of its senior members for his outstanding contribution to the financial advice profession at its annual conference in Auckland last night.

Stephen O'Connor from Invercargill was presented with the prestigious Outstanding Contribution to the Profession Award at the IFA gala awards dinner.



Each year IFA selects a single recipient to receive recognition on behalf of the financial services industry for their outstanding contribution over an extended period of time. The award is not limited to IFA members and is assessed on a person's contribution to the entire profession. IFA President Nigel Tate said "Mr O'Connor's contribution to the financial advice profession has been extraordinary. His commitment to high professional standards and his work in helping to develop the profession and to ensure that it meets global standards has had a huge influence".

Mr O'Connor is an Authorised Financial Adviser (AFA), a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER^{CM} (CFP^{CM}) and a Chartered Accountant. He was made a Fellow of IFA in 2009.

Mr O'Connor was an inaugural board member of IFA and served as President in 2004-05. He has held multiple roles for the FPIA (the predecessor to IFA) and IFA. He has chaired the College of Financial Planners, Audit Committee, and also served as President. Internationally, he has represented New

Zealand advisers on the Financial Planning Standards Board (FPSB) Council, as Chair of the FPSB Council, and on the international Board of the FPSB.

Mr O'Connor first qualified as a Chartered Accountant before becoming a financial adviser in 1987. He worked for an NZX share broking firm and a financial advisory firm before establishing Southern Investment Services, now called Mitre Wealth Management.

He has a B.Com from the University of Otago, a post-graduate Diploma in Personal Financial Planning from the University of Waikato and is an Associate Fellow of the NZ Institute of Management.

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