



Media release from the fundraising sector's peak body

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FIA'S MDU 2010 declared a huge success

The Fundraising Institute Australia today declared its major international professional development event – Madison Down Under – a resounding success.

Most tracks were fully subscribed for the five-day event from 13-17 August at the Novotel Barossa Valley Resort.

“MDU highlights included the announcement of the Steve Mourning Memorial Scholarship, in honour of the founding member of the MDU faculty, who sadly passed away only weeks before the event,” FIA CEO Chris McMillan said.

“We're encouraging FIA members and anyone involved in the fundraising sector to contribute to the professional development of fundraisers through the Steve Mourning Memorial Scholarship Fund.”

Ms McMillan said every MDU track was chaired by an international expert from the fundraising sector, bringing a wealth of overseas experience to the event.

International chairs included Doug Dillon, Senior Partner, Jerold Panas, Linzy & Partners, USA; Bitsy Henderson, Principal, Henderson Mallory Partners, USA; and Michelle Campbell, President and CEO, St Joseph's Health Care Foundation, Canada.

“This wonderful international expertise was coupled with the local knowledge of our Australian presenters, so everything was directly applicable to the Australian context,” Ms McMillan said.

One of the initiatives at this year's MDU was a special “state-of-the-nation” networking dinner on the opening night where the “state” of fundraising was discussed and ways of moving forward.

“All in all, it was a great five days,” Ms McMillan said. “We've had the most wonderfully positive feedback and are already planning next year's event.

“Meanwhile we're just putting the finishing touches to our next major professional development and networking event - the FIA's National Conference on 24-27 February 2011. Mark your diaries now!”

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