

Media Release

from the fundraising sector

October 21, 2010

FIA winners take out inaugural Global Awards!

The Fundraising Institute Australia congratulates two of its national award winners for taking out the inaugural Resource Alliance Global Awards for Fundraising yesterday.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service, Victorian Section won the Big Idea, Small Budget Global Award, and Asthma Foundation NSW volunteer Michael Cowan received the Outstanding Volunteer Global Award.

The Resource Alliance (RA) Global Award winners were announced at a gala dinner at the International Fundraising Congress in the Netherlands yesterday, October 20.

"The FIA is delighted an Australian charity and a volunteer working for an Australian charity have received international recognition for their enormous achievements," Ms McMillan said.

"Both applicants initially won 2010 FIA National Awards for Excellence in Fundraising.

"The FIA proudly nominated these two national winners to receive international recognition for their outstanding achievements," Ms McMillan said.

"We were also pleased to put forward a third national winner - the Children's Cancer Institute Australia - for the RA Global Award for Innovative Fundraising Campaign."

Speaking from the Netherlands, Ms McMillan said the FIA was delighted to join with national fundraising peak bodies across the world in co-hosting the first ever international fundraising awards.

"Only winners awarded by national peak bodies are eligible for the Global Awards," Ms McMillan said.

"This is in recognition of the crucial role national associations play in supporting their not-for-profit organisations, with the view to bringing them into the global fundraising arena – which is so important for sharing learning and development."

The RFDS Victorian Section's campaign "In an emergency there is only one way to fly – by jet!" raised more than \$1 million towards acquiring a jet to service isolated areas in Western Australia. This was a result never before achieved by an RFDS section.

A chronic asthma sufferer, Michael Cowan raised \$75,000 for the Asthma Foundation through his Penny Farthing Challenge. He built and then rode a penny farthing 1000 kilometres through country NSW over nine days to raise asthma awareness and funds.

"These Australian winners are now honoured on the world stage, and internationally highlight the amazing achievements of our local fundraising sector," Ms McMillan said.

FIA media contact: Gail Knox 02 9410 5911 / 0400 020 574