



Acclaimed businesswoman Jan Swinhoe Awarded Actuary of the Year

Friday 20 September 2024

The Actuaries Institute is proud to announce Jan Swinhoe as the recipient of the prestigious Actuary of the Year award for 2024. This accolade recognises Ms Swinhoe's exceptional contributions to the actuarial profession and her board roles across financial services and not for profit organisations.

Ms Swinhoe is a distinguished actuary with a successful executive and non-executive career spanning institutional banking, private banking, superannuation, and insurance. She is currently non-executive director of Swiss Re (Life & Health and Property & Casualty) and Australian Philanthropic Services (APS). She also sits on a World Athletics Committee focusing on inclusion at all levels of athletics globally.

"I am honoured to receive this prestigious Actuary of the Year award. Actuaries have the capacity to make incredible contributions to solving societal challenges across the world.

"Many people think actuaries limit themselves to analytical work, but the very nature of our training leads to strong judgment, development of human skills, and, usually, endeavouring to improve the lives of other people and their circumstances. So, being an actuary really is about a greater good, which is one of the things I love about the profession," Ms Swinhoe said.

Ms Swinhoe held non-executive director positions at IMB Bank, Suncorp Portfolio Services, Mercer Investments, and was Chair of Mercer Superannuation Australia for 9 of the 10 years that she served on the Board, retiring in June this year. She was General Manager of Westpac's Private Bank, where she led one of Australia's largest private banking divisions for four years immediately prior to commencing her non-executive Director journey in 2011.

Beyond the business sector, Ms Swinhoe passionately believes in the benefit of sport for mental and physical wellbeing and joined the Board of Athletics Australia in 2014. Six years after being appointed Vice President in 2015 she became the first female President in Athletics Australia's 124-year history, a position she held until October 2023. In addition, Ms Swinhoe has made significant contributions to philanthropy through her current board role with APS and in her previous role as Chair of the IMB Bank Community Foundation.

Ms Swinhoe has been a prominent figure in promoting the actuarial profession across Australia and internationally. She currently serves on the Actuaries Institute Superannuation Practice Committee, volunteers with the Institute's Mentor Program, and is launching a Banking and Investments podcast.

"I am so grateful to have chosen this career, or maybe it chose me because it has enabled me to follow my great passions of mathematics, sport and promoting greater fairness and equality in the world.

The Actuaries Institute President, David Whittle, said: "Jan Swinhoe's remarkable career and her dedication to the actuarial profession make her a deserving recipient of this award. Her contributions have not only advanced the field but also inspired many within the profession."

Chief Executive Elayne Grace said: "Jan is renowned for thinking big and being bold while having a laser focus on ensuring the best outcomes for individuals and communities. She is an outstanding role model for our profession."



Ms Swinhoe is available for comment.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Belinda Tasker, Cannings Strategic Communications
m +61(0) 434 056 724 **e** belinda.tasker@canningscomms.com

About the Actuaries Institute and the Profession

As the peak professional body in Australia, the Actuaries Institute represents the profession to Government, business and the community, and holds the 'public interest' and 'common good' as key principles in developing policy.

Actuaries use data for good by harnessing evidence to navigate the future and make a positive impact. They think deeply about the issue at hand, whether is advising on commercial strategy, influencing policy, or designing new products. Actuaries are adept at balancing the interests of stakeholders, clients, and communities. They are called upon to give insight into complex problems and they will look at the full picture to develop solutions. Actuaries analyse data and model scenarios to form robust and outcome-centred advice.

www.actuaries.asn.au