

Australian **arbs** Education & Research Foundation

Media Release

2016 WILL BE A BIG YEAR FOR THE ARBS EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION.

Established legally in late 2014, the Foundation has spent much of the past 12 months engaged in complex legal matters establishing two trust funds and having them approved by the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission along with the Australian Tax Office as charities and tax-exempt bodies. Companies in the industry will be able to make financial contributions to the trusts which are fully tax-deductible.

Foundation chair, Ian Hopkins, said that he is encouraged by the level of support already being shown towards the goals and plans of the Foundation.

The Foundation will direct its resources into two activities. First, providing scholarships for further education in programs that will assist people to work more productively in the air conditioning and refrigeration industries, and second, supporting research projects that will help solve practical problems which face the industry.

In financial year 2015/16, the Foundation aims to award scholarships and research grants up to \$50,000 in total. The allocation will be \$25,000 into each category.

Ian Hopkins said the Foundation has been set up by ARBS Exhibitions LTD to ensure that the surplus funds generated over the past decade from the successful exhibitions are directed to activities which provide real benefit to the industry.

“It is important to use these funds wisely,” Ian Hopkins said.

Already the Foundation is working with two industry groups to support innovative training arrangements for refrigeration mechanics to upgrade their skills in the commercial sectors of the industry.

Early in 2016 the Foundation website will be operational and proposals for research projects will be invited.

Over time the Foundation will increase its capital base so that it can expand its strategies to aid the improvement of industry productivity.

“Productivity improvement is the key to the future prosperity of the industry,” Ian Hopkins said.

Contact Information: Ian Hopkins Chairman
 David Eynon Executive Officer 0412.314.927

Date issued:

Attachment: Background briefing paper.