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## NIBA AWARD HONOURS BROKING EXCELLENCE

Winners of the NIBA awards have been revealed at the annual national NIBA Convention in Hobart today.

Kim Gilbert of Zenith Insurance Services in WA has been picked as the winner of this year's QBE-sponsored Stephen Ball Memorial Award for Insurance Broker of the Year. This is the second year in row that a WA broker has won the national award.

QBE Executive General Manager, Intermediary Distribution, Jason Clarke said: "On behalf of QBE, I'd like to congratulate Kim Gilbert of Zenith Insurance on winning the 2018 Stephen Ball Memorial Award for Broker of the Year.

"Kim has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to professional excellence, client advocacy, customer service and the professional development of not only himself, but his team and the broader broking community."

"Our broker partners are key to our success at QBE, which is why we're so proud to partner with NIBA to recognise the best brokers in the business with an accolade that fittingly bears the name of one of the industry's most celebrated professionals."

As part of winning the award, Gilbert has won a \$20,000 travel and education prize to further his professional development.

Next, Craig Anderson of Austbrokers ABS in NSW was awarded the Vero-sponsored Warren Tickle Memorial Award for Young Professional Broker of the Year.

In congratulating Craig on his win, Anthony Pagano, Head of Commercial Intermediaries at Vero said: "Craig has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to his professional development, providing leadership to peers and a dedication to high standards and excellence.

The quality of all the finalists is the reason Vero has been a proud supporter of NIBA's Young Professionals and the Warren Tickle Memorial Award for more than two decades."

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NIBA CEO Dallas Booth says all Broker of the Year and Young Professional Broker of the Year finalists were exceptional brokers, and these awards recognise and celebrate their hard work. “They set a benchmark for the rest of the profession.”

“Kim has set very high standards for his broking business, for his commitment to his clients, his community, and his staff.

“Craig, meanwhile, has already established himself as a very fine young insurance broking professional, who strives for the best and seeks to achieve high levels of support for his clients. He is a deserving recipient of the Young Professional Broker of the Year award.”

“NIBA would also like to thank QBE and Vero for their sponsorship of the two awards.”



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## NIBA ACKNOWLEDGES STALWART WITH LEX McKEOWN TROPHY

Meanwhile, this year's Lex McKeown Trophy for lifetime achievement was awarded to Jeff Smith from AON Insurance Brokers.

NIBA President Tim Wedlock congratulated Smith on receiving the award. "There could not be a more deserving recipient of the Lex McKeown trophy. Jeff is the embodiment of everything the trophy stands for – professionalism, integrity and generosity."

"Without a doubt, he enjoys deep and trustworthy relationships with all clients, and one which extends beyond the insurance transaction. Jeff is very well respected, in fact, considered a stalwart by many and generally possesses a friendship with anyone he meets – we have never heard of anything but respect."

Smith's many professional accomplishments and commitment to the industry have been recognised with multiple accolades including the NIBA NSW Broker of the Year in 1996 and 2007, along with a Certificate of Commendation in 2012 for his long-serving role on NIBA's NSW Divisional Committee where, over a 15-year period, he held the positions of Committee Member, Deputy Chairman and Chairman.

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## **NIBA RECOGNISES INSURER**

More than 800 NIBA member brokers rated insurers' products and services in a range of categories as part of the annual Broker Market Survey.

This year, in addition to the annual General Insurer of the Year, NIBA has recognised the Most Trusted Brand and Best Broker Experience by an insurer in two more awards.

The revamped award structure focuses on key industry drivers in addition to the long-standing General Insurer of the Year award.

Lucas Carreras, Commercial Director, Services & Technology at Nielsen Australia said: "We are pleased to introduce the new NIBA Broker Industry Survey, Australia's largest insurance broker research study."

"This year we have re-designed the awards to celebrate excellence in our industry with factors that really matter to brokers and their customers. There are three awards to celebrate, the Most Trusted Brand, the Best Broker Experience and the General Insurer of the Year."

Chubb was awarded Most Trusted Brand and Best Broker Experience, and with the highest combined score across the board, was crowned General Insurer of the Year.

Booth congratulated Chubb on the win: "The award recognises the strong efforts Chubb has put in to servicing and supporting brokers and their clients in the past year."

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### **About NIBA**

NIBA is an independent industry association representing approximately 320 firms and more than 3500 individual intermediaries, who handle almost 90 per cent of the commercial insurance transacted in Australia. Brokers play a major role in insurance distribution, handling \$18 billion in premiums annually and placing around half of Australia's total insurance business.