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NIBA announces finalists for Student of the Year Award

As part of its continuing efforts to encourage high levels of professionalism, the National Insurance Brokers Association (NIBA) has announced the three brokers who will contest this year's NIBA College Student of the Year Award.

The award, sponsored by QBE Insurance, seeks to recognise and reward brokers who excel in their Diploma of Insurance Broking studies with NIBA College. To be eligible, students must achieve the highest mark in their month of completion to win the Student of the Month Award. The three highest-achieving monthly winners move on to compete for the national award.

The three finalists are:

- **Jeremy Thornton**, Complete Risk Solutions (IAA Mid North Coast); Taree, NSW
- **Jessica Cunningham**, Robert K Green & Associates; Croydon, VIC
- **Jessica Knight**, Knightcorp Insurance Brokers; Claremont, WA

The overall Student of the Year will be announced at the NIBA Convention on Monday, 7 September. Courtesy of QBE, the winner will receive a \$1000 cash prize, as well as a place on QBE's acclaimed eEquip program. In addition, all three finalists will be flown to Sydney in August for a personal development day at QBE's national headquarters.

Colin Fagen, CEO QBE Australia and New Zealand said: "We're excited to be supporting the Student of the Year Award for the third time and continuing our commitment to building a strong future for the insurance industry. We know we work in a highly specialised industry and believe its success is built on the depth of our talent and our ability to attract new entrants and develop their skills.

"It's been fantastic to see the professional development opportunities this award has created over the last few years and we're proud to be making it possible to recognise and reward our next generation of brokers."

Linda Evans, NIBA Professional Development Executive, said: "Raising the professionalism of brokers is central to NIBA's objectives and being able to recognise our highest academic achievers is very important.

"Well educated brokers are always likely to enjoy successful careers as brokers and we hope that by recognising the efforts of our top students, we will inspire others to really commit to their studies, in turn helping to lift the professionalism across the entire broking profession."

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NIBA is an independent industry association representing approximately 350 firms and more than 3500 individual intermediaries, who handle almost 90% 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.

NIBA College of Risk and Insurance Professionals is the education and training arm of NIBA. Since 1995 the College has provided qualifications and ongoing professional development programs for those in the risk insurance broking industry. NIBA College is a registered training organisation (RTO) accredited by the Australian government to offer national qualifications from Certificate III through to tertiary level Graduate Diplomas.