

Mentor Education appoints Jim Taggart, OAM, as Chairman.

Mentor Education today appointed Dr. Jim Taggart, OAM, as its first Chairman. Taggart has had a distinguished career as an educationalist, a financial services adviser and as a business and community leader.

Dr. Taggart said, "I am thrilled to be invited to chair the board of Mentor Education. As Australia's largest privately-owned financial services training organisation and one that is growing fast on a platform of innovation and integrity, I see Mentor Education perfectly positioned to actively support the evolution of Australia's financial planning industry".

Taggart said, "With the next wave of financial services legislation aimed at raising the professional standards of financial advisers, I am delighted to be part of Mentor Education's efforts to facilitate this wave and provide the next generation of quality courses and degrees."

Jim has impeccable credentials as a financial planner. He established the *Taggart Group* in 1987, building it into a major SME in which he successfully developed its Financial Services Advising Business and later added General Insurance, growing the business to over 5,000 clients. He also won the *Association of Financial Advisers, Financial Advisor of the Year Award* in 2005.

Mentor Education founder and MD, Dr Mark Sinclair, said, "I am very excited that Jim Taggart has become our first ever Chairman. With the growth opportunities we see in financial services training, Jim is ideally placed to assist us in strategically addressing the future needs of our clients."

Said Dr Sinclair, "Having trained over 15,000 advisers to date, we look forward to providing the best and most appropriate courses to suit our next 15,000 clients as they adapt to Australia's changing financial planning landscape."

Taggart also said, "I also applaud Mentor Education for so insightfully entering the debate on educational qualifications for financial advisers. Its considered position on the need for fully-fledged 24-subject financial planning degree vis-avis so-called 'degree equivalents' and 'hybrid degrees' is one I strongly support. (*Mentor Education statement was widely reported in the financial and education media last week. A copy of Mentor Education's media release can be found [here](#)*)

Taggart is currently an Adjunct Professor at both *Western Sydney and Notre Dame Universities*, where he provides advice and assistance to promote undergraduate and post graduate courses, as well as on research methods in business, innovation and entrepreneurship. He is also a Director at the *Western Sydney Academy of Sport* where he provides strategic leadership, business advice and is chairperson of fund raising.

About Mentor Education

Established in 2002 and headquartered in Melbourne, Mentor Education is Australia's largest privately owned financial services training company. Mentor Education has educated over 15,000 thousand financial advisers. Employing 27 staff, the highly successful business specialises in the provision of professional and personal development training through face-to-face, distance education and interactive e-learning facilities.

Mentor Education courses lead to qualifications in financial planning, accounting, bookkeeping, mortgage broking and credit management. Specialist adviser courses are also provided as well as Continuous Professional Development technology and content. As a registered RTO, all Mentor Education qualifications are nationally recognised.

About Dr. Jim Taggart



*High resolution image
available on request*

Dr. Jim Taggart is a Chairman, Non Executive, Committee (Audit) Member, Adjunct Professor and Director with over 20 years of board level experience across the public (local & state), private (finance planning, investment, development) and not for profit (church, community & fundraising) sectors. At board level, some highlights include being a member of the Asia Pacific Financial Services Association, Investment Board for the Parramatta Diocese; (Chairman) Salvation Army Advisory Board (Business Appeal); Audit Committee Member, Hills Shire Council; Parramatta Stadium and TAFE NSW Western Sydney Institute.

In an executive capacity, he established highly successful The Taggart Group in 1987 and is currently Director, Western Sydney Institute of Sport. He was previously Director, Landscape NSW & ACT.

He has a Doctorate of Business Administration (DBA) and is an Adjunct Professorship of Notre Dame University. He is also a recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) and won the Association of Financial Advisers, Financial Advisor of the Year Award in 2005.

About Dr. Mark Sinclair.

Dr. Mark Sinclair is the Managing Director of Mentor Education.



*High resolution image
available on request*

Dr. Sinclair started providing financial services training in 2003 with a strong desire to provide high levels of student satisfaction and skill-based learning outcomes. This 'student focus' is a direct result of Mark's doctoral studies, corporate advisory experience with AT Kearney and KPMG, and his time tutoring to the MBA program at RMIT.

During his career, Mark has advised senior executives at over 100 organisations in a broad range of industries throughout Australia, Southeast Asia and the Middle East including strategic assignment with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Department of Education, Telstra and the Reserve Bank of Indonesia

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