

Media Release

Recipient of the 2021 Fulbright Scholarship in Non-Profit Leadership announced recognising the importance of foreign policy thinking

16 June 2021

Bridi Rice, a former Director at the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and current Co-Convenor of the Asia-Pacific Development, Diplomacy and Defence Dialogue, has won the 2021 Fulbright Professional Scholarship in Non-Profit Leadership (Fulbright Scholarship).

The Fulbright Scholarship funds an emerging leader in the not-for-profit (NFP) sector to undertake research and/or professional development in the U.S. for three to four months. It is funded by Perpetual and supported by the Australian Scholarships Foundation (ASF).

Caitriona Fay, Managing Partner, Community and Social Investments at Perpetual said, "This Fulbright Scholarship is truly a unique opportunity and Perpetual is proud to support and advance the thinking of the NFP sector's emerging leaders."

Sam Sayers, CEO at the ASF commented: "This is our ninth year of supporting NFP leaders through the Fulbright Scholarship. At a time when Australia's foreign policy is under more focus than it has been for decades, providing more opportunity for a top-quality foreign policy mind like Bridi's to work with leading thinkers from around the world is exactly the kind of societal contribution the Fulbright Scholarships were designed for."

Bridi will use her Fulbright Scholarship working with and in a variety of Washington based think tanks, civil society organisations and media outlets to re-imagine the foreign policy think tanks of the future. "There are a few big questions I'm focusing on," said Bridi. "How do think tanks influence policy in the modern era? What can we take from the past to make them more effective? And what can we bring from the future – in areas like artificial intelligence, office-less transnational connections, globally diverse boards and big data – to ensure they address the emerging issues of our time?"

Speaking on behalf of the Australian-American Fulbright Commission, Executive Director Thomas Dougherty said: "We're very pleased to announce Bridi as a 2021 Fulbright Scholar. Her experience with ACFID shares a natural affinity with the aims of the Fulbright Program, and her research in Washington DC will foster valuable dialogue for think tanks both in Australia and the United States".

"This Fulbright Scholarship is a dream come true," said Bridi. "Reimagining how we listen, think and do development cooperation as a nation has never been more critical. I can't wait to embed myself in Washington's foreign policy community, learning from some of the smartest minds, collecting the brightest ideas and forging diverse networks – all of which I hope will help create a new, modern platform for development in the Indo-Pacific."

The Fulbright Professional Scholarship in Non-Profit Leadership is valued up to \$30,000.

Fulbright Scholarship applications are now open for the 10th year and will close on 6 July 2021. Australian Fulbright Scholarship candidates are interviewed and selected by panels of experts from academia, government, not-for-profit and professional organisations as well as the U.S. Embassy. For more information and to apply, visit www.scholarships.org.au/educators/fulbright.

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Note to editors:

About Perpetual Philanthropic Services

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About the Australian Scholarships Foundation

Australian Scholarships Foundation (ASF) is the only Australian organisation solely focused on funding and facilitating scholarships for Australian not-for-profit (NFP) directors and staff to undertake education, training and mentoring programs that improve their ability to lead and manage their organisations. ASF's purpose is to increase the overall effectiveness of the NFP sector through education, training and development of the sector.

ASF has funded and facilitated over \$11.5 million of scholarships for the NFP sector over the last 12 years and has partnerships with 25 universities and private education providers across Australia. Further information about ASF is available at www.scholarships.org.au.

About the Australian-American Fulbright Commission

The Fulbright Program is the flagship foreign exchange scholarship program of the United States of America, aimed at increasing binational research collaboration, cultural understanding, and the exchange of ideas. Born in the aftermath of WWII, the program was established by Senator J. William Fulbright in 1946 with the ethos of turning 'swords into ploughshares', whereby credits from the sale of surplus U.S. war materials were used to fund academic exchanges between host countries and the U.S.

Since its establishment, the Fulbright Program has grown to become the largest educational exchange scholarship program in the world, operating in over 160 countries. In its seventy-year history, more than 370,000 students, academics, and professionals have received Fulbright Scholarships to study, teach, or conduct research, and promote bilateral collaboration and cultural empathy. Since its inception in Australia in 1949, the Fulbright Commission has awarded over 5,000 scholarships, creating a vibrant, dynamic, and interconnected network of Alumni.