Entries now open for the student challenge of a lifetime!

Calling all business and commerce students! If you love a challenge and want the opportunity to make a difference to a global aid organisation, share in a $65,000 prize pool and give your CV a massive boost, then jump online and head to www.figureditoutyet.com.au, because the national Chartered Accountants Student Challenge is about to kick off!

In an industry-first initiative, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia has collaborated with global not-for-profit (NFP) organisations – Oxfam, the Australian Conservation Foundation and Médecins Sans Frontières – to develop three real-life business challenges for students.

Young Australians from around the country will apply the skills they have gained at university to develop solutions for the real-life business problems. The first of the three challenges will be announced on Monday, 3 March 2008, with the final challenge concluding in July 2008.

No ordinary competition, by entering the Chartered Accountants Student Challenge not only can students get their hands on some awesome prizes that include travel, Apple Mac laptops and Apple iTouch music players, they can also influence climate change, help alleviate poverty or advocate for social justice.

Students in teams of up to four, will be given two weeks to prepare and submit their solutions in a range of formats with supporting documentation, and will compete for the opportunity to present their ideas to the leaders of the NFP organisation.

Following on from the success of the ‘Number 1 in Numbers’ Facebook group, the Student Challenge is the latest online initiative of the Institute of Chartered Accountants aimed at introducing students to Chartered Accounting at a critical time in their career decision process.

“The Chartered Accountants Student Challenge is a great opportunity for young business or finance students to collaborate ideas and develop their professional skills while competing for the opportunity of travelling to see the cause in action. This initiative is designed to expose students to the variety of work a Chartered Accounting career can provide. The challenge together with the Facebook online community also facilitates excellent networking opportunities early in their business career,” said the Institute’s Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Elaine McFadzean.

Students can participate in one or all of the challenges, and responses will be judged on four main criteria – technical knowledge, innovation, presentation and participation.

Kicking off on 3 March, already a vast number of students have signed up for the national Chartered Accountants Student Challenge, so to make sure you don’t miss out on this awesome opportunity head to www.figureditoutyet.com.au now.

Go on - challenge yourself to change the world, one number at a time!
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, the nation’s global leader in accounting, is focused on leadership, protecting the standards and reputation of the accounting profession and influencing the policies and regulations that affect the industry.

Unlike other accounting bodies, the Institute does not include students in its membership figures. The Institute’s 46,000 members are tertiary graduates, who have completed the Chartered Accountants program - which is the only postgraduate diploma offered by the Australian accounting profession.

The Institute’s post-graduate Chartered Accountants training is one of the most rigorous in the world and is the only Australian qualification recognised by leading accounting bodies in the UK, North America and Asia.

Chartered Accountants are highly trained business advisers who offer a wide range of services including business management, financial planning, tax, auditing, forensic accounting and other areas. Through a combination of precise, insightful and ethical thinking, Chartered Accountants are without equal in powering the right business decisions and serving as a financial conscience within the business community.

The Institute is a founding member of the Global Accounting Alliance, which has been formed by the world’s premier accounting bodies to promote quality professional services, support the global membership, share information and collaborate on international accounting issues.

The Alliance represents more than 700,000 of the world’s leading professional accountants. The Institute is the only Australian accounting body within the Alliance.

Other bodies within the Alliance include:

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA);
- Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA);
- Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA);
- Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW);
- Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ireland (ICAI);
- Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS);
- New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants (NZICA); and
- South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

For further information about the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia visit www.charteredaccountants.com.au