

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **NEW HIRES TO HARNESS FY2011 GROWTH**

*Ampersand Executive adds to its top-notch team in response to client confidence*

**28 June 2010, Melbourne, Australia:** Ampersand, leading executive recruitment and search firm, is anticipating an ongoing recovery of the Australian economy into the 2010-2011 financial year. In the light of this expected continued growth, the recruitment firm is expanding, adding to their well-respected team in order to meet the increasing demand for high quality candidates within specific sectors.

Ampersand Executive announces two new appointments to the Melbourne office. **Claire Van Tonder** joins Ampersand as **Principal Consultant - Marketing and Communication**. Claire will be managing permanent executive appointments across the banking and financial services sectors. **Sarah Sladen** also joins the team as **Principal Consultant – Executive Contracting** and Sarah will be working across the marketing and communications contracting portfolio for government, energy, not-for-profit, consumer / retail and all non-financial services clients.

Both Claire and Sarah join Ampersand from well-known international recruitment firm Robert Walters plc. Claire commenced her tenure with Robert Walters in South Africa and was soon transferred by the company to Melbourne and appointed to the influential role of Manager for the Sales, Marketing and Communications Division. Sarah worked for the organisation within the UK, and proved her skills by building a strong contracting portfolio despite the economic downturn in the country. These key appointments will provide added depth to the existing Ampersand specialist team.

Both hires have been secured at a significant time for the company. Founder and Managing Director, Hayley James, is strongly optimistic about the Australian economy, and even though world markets remain volatile she believes that Australian businesses and their hiring mandates reflect a deeper confidence.

“The appointments of Claire and Sarah is in direct response to the positive mood of the market and the fact that our business activity has been steadily increasing. Where the recruitment industry in Australia has contracted significantly during the economic downturn, Ampersand Executive has experienced strategic growth across our functional areas of expertise, and on a national platform. We anticipate future growth to the team as we move into the 2011 Financial Year,” said Hayley. “Even though there is lot of discussion about the European economies and how these may affect the global recovery, our clients are anticipating that Australia will ride out the turmoil. Our blue-chip client base remains true to their growth plans with corporate Australia recovering confidently. There is however a continued emphasis on cost rationalisation and risk management.”

“As a result, our clients continue to strategise to attract the best top talent for their critical functions – they are systematically planning their hires. More organisations are looking to Ampersand for market intelligence about the available talent in their sectors, and requesting proactive and cross-regional mapping of potential candidates for their decision-making roles. We believe our clients continue to maintain a strong confidence in the continued growth agenda of their businesses.”

With big business undertaking such strategic research and comprehensively identifying top talent, Hayley James recommends that employers continue to assess their EVP and methodologies to attract, engage and retain talent.

“As the economy experiences a recovery, staff will start to be tempted by tailored incentives from competitors. It’s important to get senior staff incentives right, and keep their wisdom in your business.”

#### **#ENDS**

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#### **About Ampersand Executive**

Ampersand Executive is a leading, specialist executive recruitment firm with proven expertise in sourcing, attracting and securing top talent in the areas of corporate communications, marketing, sales, strategy, human resources and senior management and leadership appointments. The firm provides permanent and executive contract recruitment services to a broad range of industries including;

banking and financial services, FMCG/consumer, retail, energy/resources, professional services, government and the not-for-profit sector.

With offices in Melbourne (HQ) and Sydney, Ampersand Executive aspires to be the most competitive, specialist Executive Search and Recruitment firm across the Asia Pacific region with a reputation for best practice service delivery; strength of national and global networks; and uncompromising candidate and client care.