

17 July 2017

SENSES AUSTRALIA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RESIGNS

Today, Senses Australia President Colin Emmott announced the resignation of Debbie Karasinski after sixteen years as the organisation's Chief Executive Officer. The resignation is effective at the end of November 2017.

"Throughout her time with Senses Australia, Debbie has contributed significantly to the organisation that Senses Australia is today," Colin Emmott said. "Debbie has grown our organisation from 50 employees in 2001 to 320 today; grown our income from \$8 million to \$20 million; increased the number and type of services we provide; spread our service delivery into the lower south west and the wheatbelt; and increased the number of clients from 150 to 1,600 - making us the well respected disability service provider we are today.

"We will miss Debbie Karasinski enormously," Colin Emmott said.

Debbie Karasinski has been a Chief Executive Officer of disability service organisations for twenty six years, initially with the Multiple Sclerosis Society of WA, then with Senses Australia. Prior to this, Debbie worked for fifteen years in the Health Sector as an occupational therapist, including as the Chief Occupational Therapist at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

Over her nearly forty years working within the health and disability sectors, Debbie Karasinski has participated in not for profit and government Boards. Most recently these have included

- The Taxi Industry Board
- The National Disability Services (NDS) Board
- The Disability Services Commission Board
- The Noongar Boodja Trustee Selection Taskforce; and
- The Premier's Partnership Forum.

Debbie Karasinski remains the Chair of the Child and Adolescent Health Service Board.

Senses Australia is one of Australia's leading not for profit organisations that provides world class disability services to the Western Australian community and has done so for more than 120 years. Everyday Senses Australia supports over 650 children and adults of all ages with a wide range of disabilities, including people who are deafblind or experience vision and hearing impairments, to reach their full potential. To find out more about Senses Australia's services visit www.senses.org.au or call Senses Australia on 1300 111 881.

Ends.

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