

29 May 2017

Media Release

Painaustralia welcomes new CEO

After a nation-wide executive search and recruitment process, Ms Carol Bennett has been appointed to the position of Chief Executive Officer of Painaustralia—the body formed in 2011 to facilitate implementation of the National Pain Strategy.

Ms Bennett will commence her new role on 1 July, taking over from founding CEO Lesley Brydon.

Robert Regan, Chair of Painaustralia said, ***'We are delighted to have attracted a CEO of Ms Bennett's calibre into this important role. Ms. Bennett has been a leader in the Australian national health policy area for many years. During this time, Carol has been CEO of some of Australia's leading health organisations including Alzheimer's Australia, the Consumers Health Forum of Australia, the Australian Rural and Remote Workforce Agencies Group (now Rural Health Workforce Australia) and the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association. She has also been a consultant to influential health organisations including beyondblue.'***

Ms Bennett has spent most of her career supporting increased community and consumer engagement in health services as reflected in her appointments to the International Alliance of Patient Organisations and the National Health and Medical Research Council representing community interests.

'Carol has a reputation for achieving real outcomes in the organisations she has managed and her capacity to work collaboratively with many key stakeholders will be an asset to Painaustralia as it continues to forge new opportunities to improve the experiences of Australians living with chronic pain,' Mr Regan said.

Ms Bennett said, ***'Chronic pain affects one in five Australians. It is a massive health issue and the leading cause of disability world-wide¹. I am honoured to have this opportunity to build on the great work Painaustralia has been doing under the leadership of Lesley Brydon, with the aim of making pain a national health priority. If Painaustralia is effective, we can improve the lives of millions of Australians and significantly reduce costs in our health services. I welcome that challenge.'***

Robert Regan paid tribute to the outstanding work of outgoing CEO Lesley Brydon. ***'Painaustralia has been instrumental in transforming understanding and treatment of pain, facilitating implementation of the National Pain Strategy. The organisation has gained major commitments from governments across Australia thanks to Lesley's tireless work over more than eight years. Lesley's determination to make a difference in the lives of so many people experiencing chronic pain has inspired many of us. We congratulate her on the legacy she has established and wish her well in the future.'***

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¹ Lancet Global Burden of Disease Study 2013