

Media Release

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RSL Care CEO farewelled

The Chairman of the RSL Care Board Mr Sam Komarowski has announced CEO Ross Smith will leave the organisation on 28 October after almost 16 years of growing and leading with distinction Queensland's second largest integrated aged care provider.

"Ross has successfully lead RSL Care since February 1996 and his commitment to the Australian aged care sector is renowned and highly regarded," Mr Sam Komarowski said.

During his time as CEO, Ross has strategically positioned RSL Care as a major Queensland and National provider of residential, retirement and community care. Under his leadership:

- The number of older Australians served has grown from around 1000 to over 25000
- Staff and volunteers have grown from 800 to 3600
- Turnover has increased from \$17 million to \$240 million
- Assets have increased from \$75 million to around \$1.2 billion

For the past eighteen months the Board and Ross have worked together on a comprehensive strategic review of the organisation which looked at both industry and customer changes.

"RSL Care is at the threshold of an exciting period with significant future opportunities," Ross said.

"After 16 years as CEO, I am incredibly ambitious for RSL Care to achieve a transformational goal of building a truly great company.

"The changes in the aged care sector present a timely opportunity for a new leader to implement our new strategy and for me to pursue my passion of serving the Ex-Service community and opportunities in the health reform agenda."

Mr Komarowski said thanks to Ross, RSL Care has built a strong culture of growing, evolving and succeeding.

"I look forward to the exciting times and new opportunities ahead for both our customers and our staff.

On behalf of everyone at RSL Care, I would like to thank Ross for his contribution and distinguished service" he said.

The RSL Care Board is in the process of selecting a suitable successor.

Ross has been Director of Aged Care Queensland since 1997 and President for the past four years. He is also Deputy President of Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA), chairs ACSA's National Community Care Advisory Committee and represents ACSA at the National Aged Care Alliance where he works closely with the Minister for Aging Mr Mark Butler MP on aged care reform as part of the National Health Reform Agenda. An example of Ross's passion for healthcare reform is his recent appointment as a Director of West Moreton-Oxley Medicare Local. In 2003 Ross was awarded the College's prestigious Gold medal recognising innovation, effectiveness and entrepreneurial leadership in the field of aged care.

Media contact: 0437 633 014 or 0419 747 049