

Media Release

1 November 2011



RSL Care enters new era

The RSL Care Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Peter Emery as interim CEO of RSL Care and Mr Robert Lippiatt as Chairman. The appointments follow the departure of long-standing CEO Mr Ross Smith and Chairman of the Board Mr Sam Komarowski on Friday 28 October.

Mr Lippiatt said the changes in leadership mark a new era full of promise as RSL Care continues to strengthen its position as a national leader in the emerging national health, aged and community care sector.

“For the past eighteen months we have worked on a strategic review which provides an ideal opportunity to build on our strengths as we move through this period of significant change in our operating environment,” Mr Lippiatt said.

“As a Senior Corporate Advisor to the RSL Care Board since April 2011, Peter brings with him a deep understanding of the business, including our recent strategic review and our enhanced customer-focused approach.

“Peter’s successful track record of leading organisations through transitions combined with an acute awareness of the changing landscape in health, aged and community care makes him eminently qualified to lead RSL Care during this transition, which presents exciting opportunities for both our customers and staff.”

Mr Lippiatt said the Board worked closely with the outgoing and incoming CEO during October to ensure a smooth transition, which also included the appointment of Mr Russell Pearce as Deputy Chairman of the Board and the resignation of Ms Ann Martin as a Director.

“Having had the privilege of working with Ross, Sam and Ann for the past four and a half years in my capacity as Director and for the last twelve months as Deputy Chairman, I would like to thank all three for their combined service of almost forty years, and for their respective roles in guiding RSL Care through a very successful period,” he said.

“On behalf of the Board and staff at RSL Care, I wish Ross, Sam and Ann the best of luck for their future endeavours and extend a warm welcome to Peter.

“Under Peter’s leadership, I have every confidence that we will stay true to our mission of providing for the Service and Ex-Service community while aspiring to our vision to become a national provider of personalised health, care and accommodation to the Australian community.”

The Board’s extensive national search to select a permanent CEO to lead RSL Care through the next period of success is underway.

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CEO, Peter Emery is a senior corporate adviser, an active company director including on Not-For-Profit Boards, a former CEO, investment banker, legal adviser and lecturer. He has a successful track record of leading organisations in transformation, including Medigard Limited, which he led to become a listed entity on the Australian Securities Exchange.

Chairman of the Board, Robert Lippiatt is Deputy Chairman of the *Australian National Consultative Committee on eHealth* and has over twenty years consulting experience in positioning and restructuring organisations in the public and private sectors. Robert joined the RSL Care Board in July 2007 and became Deputy Chair in October 2010. He is former President of the *Sunnybank and District RSL Sub Branch*.

Deputy Chair, Russell Pearce is the Deputy CEO of the Tasmanian Integrity Commission. He has been a barrister for 25 years, worked in integrity and anti-corruption agencies and held executive positions with Queensland's Crime and Misconduct Commission. Russell has been a legal officer in the Army Reserve for over 20 years and was deployed to Iraq for six months. For his service with allied forces, he was awarded the US Bronze Star Medal. He joined the RSL Care Board in 2007.