



Media release

24 February 2022

Next chapter for Autism SA

With enormous pride in what has been achieved in her 5.5 years at Autism SA our CEO, Jenny Karavolos has advised that she will be leaving her role at the end of her current contract in April 22.

Jenny has a long history with Autism SA in her roles as Board Director, for 8 years, and CEO for 5.5 years.

Over the last five and a half years Jenny has spearheaded the unprecedented growth in Autism SA's services to the autism community; now with a workforce of over 500, who support over 9000 individuals and their families, carers, educators, employers etc.

When Jenny first stepped into the CEO role, Autism SA was in significant financial difficulty in the new operating environment, and under her leadership there has been a major, positive turnaround resulting in more sites, improved resources and facilities and workforce growth. In the process, Autism SA has successfully navigated the transition into the NDIS and increased the breadth of their services and supports in line with the needs and requests of our valued autism community.

"I love Autism SA, and I'm terribly proud of what we've created. I have been privileged, working with people who are so amazingly talented and have limitless passion for the autism community. I'll now take some time to prioritise family, and then decide how to channel my skills and experience into something else productive", Jenny said.

Autism SA is grateful to Jenny for her tireless work in achieving this substantial transformation and maintaining their essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic while also advocating in a number of state and national held roles for neurodiverse Australians facing challenges. The Board recognises that she is looking to spend some time with her family in the immediate future and wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.

"We recognise her extraordinary efforts but understand Jenny's desire to re-prioritise her focus after her dedication to Autism SA's turnaround phase. I am sure she will continue to be a passionate leader in the autism community in some form," said Richard Price, Autism SA's Board Chair.

"I'm proud of our shared achievements... you will likely see me continue to make meaningful contributions to improve access, inclusion and equity for neurodiverse Australians in some capacity" Jenny said.

Autism SA will now undertake an open market recruitment process to seek their next CEO to lead them into a future dedicated to pursuing our vision of "Each person on the autism spectrum lives the life they choose in an inclusive society". Said Richard Price, "We are seeking someone who again will not only



bring the leadership required for leading this growing organisation but will also strongly advocate for our community in response to the many challenges faced in such a complex policy area”.

Please direct feedback and questions to Autism SA Chair, Richard Price via email to the Board Executive Assistant, Caroline Warncken <mailto:cwarncken@autismsa.org.au>