



Media Release

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Announcing Autism SA's new CEO appointment

Autism SA, South Australia's peak body for providing services and advocacy for autistic individuals and their families, carers and support networks, is pleased to announce the appointment of Helen Graham to the position of Chief Executive Officer.

Helen has a 20-year history of working in the disability, employment, and community services sectors, spending the last 13 years of her career in senior management roles. Helen commenced with Autism SA in May of 2021 and in her most recent appointment as Executive Manager, Service Delivery Excellence, oversaw the delivery of commercial services across all service delivery portfolios.

During this time, she worked closely with the outgoing CEO and the Executive Team in the development of strategies to continuously improve organisational performance and sustainability in achieving Autism SA's objectives. Helen holds a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) and has spent time working across private practice providing psychological and behaviour support services and has also served as a Board Member on another South Australian Peak Body.

On her appointment Helen shares "I am passionate about providing outstanding support to the autistic community we serve by embedding person centred and evidence-informed practice at the heart of everything we do. Having worked with the autistic community in my past roles, I am excited about immersing myself in all aspects of the business to create excellent outcomes for everyone that we interact with.

"I'd like to thank the outgoing CEO, Jenny Karavolos, whom I worked closely alongside during the past 11 months, for setting Autism SA up for success. Jenny's legacy will play an important role in the future of the organisation, as her heart, passion and determination for an inclusive society continues to live on through the solid foundations that have been built across the past years.

"I am honoured to be leading an incredibly energetic and dedicated organisation into the next phase of our journey."

Richard Price, Chair of the Autism SA Board shares his delight on Helen's appointment to CEO, "Helen's background in disability, clinical support and her leadership style and experience made her the perfect fit for Autism SA to ensure that our services continue to be delivered with integrity and through best practice models. Helen's experience will ensure that Autism SA remains at the forefront of peak body activities, and a leader in social change across the state.

"I'd like to officially welcome Helen to the role of CEO and look forward to continuing to build on the legacy of an organisation that is the recognised leader in providing positive outcomes for individuals on the autism spectrum in order to live the lives of their choosing in an inclusive society."

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