

AIST CEO Fiona Reynolds to take up international appointment

Monday November 19th, 2012

The Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees today announced that its chief executive officer, Fiona Reynolds has resigned to take up a new appointment as Managing Director of the London-based Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI).

AIST president, Cate Wood, congratulated Ms Reynolds on her appointment and paid tribute to her leadership role at AIST and long-term contribution to the not-for-profit superannuation sector.

"Fiona has been an articulate and compelling advocate for our national superannuation system, security in retirement, and the representative trustee system. She is widely respected across all parts of the industry and will be sadly missed," Ms Wood said.

Ms Wood noted that under Fiona's stewardship, AIST had grown to be a well-resourced and active industry association that had a significant impact on retirement income and superannuation policy, trustee education and professional standards across the industry.

This year, AIST has played a key role in helping shape and implement the Government's super reform agenda, having completed more than 60 submissions. The company continues to deliver a wide range of world class conferences and education programs and Ms Reynolds work in advancing the role women can play in the boardroom recently led to the Commonwealth Government providing funding for The Super Springboard Program which aims to improve gender balance in the boardroom.

"With Fiona at the helm, AIST had led the way in governance and disclosure reforms and been a key driver in improving retirement outcomes for low income earners and women," Ms Wood said.

Cbus CEO David Atkin, who was recently re-appointed for a second term as the Australian representative on PRI, said he looked forward to continuing his working relationship with Fiona on the important work being undertaken at the PRI.

"Fiona will become a valued member of the PRI team and bring a determined focus to boosting signatory relations and outreach through promoting the tangible benefits of the PRI," Mr Atkin said.

"Fiona legacy here in Australia will be one of professionalising the industry she's represented and her key work around improving standards and governance practices across industry and not-for-profit super funds," he said

Ms Reynolds said while she was sad to be leaving AIST, she was excited to be joining the PRI - a global investor initiative in partnership with the UN Environment Program Finance Initiative and the UN Global Compact.

Ms Reynolds said the PRI had close links to Australia's \$500 billion not-for-profit super sector which had led the field in the sustainable investing and climate change awareness.

"There is a strong match between the objectives of long term, institutional investors and the aims of the PRI," she said. "I firmly believe that global investors working together can achieve the PRI's

goals of a sustainable financial system that makes an active contribution to improved global governance and ESG engagement."

Ms Reynolds will take up her appointment with the PRI in February and AIST will begin the search for a new CEO before the end of the year.

Further media enquiries:

AIST President Cate Wood: 0417 391 669

AIST is the peak industry body for the \$500 billion not-for-profit super sector which includes industry, corporate and public sector funds covering the super interests of nearly two-thirds of the Australian workforce.