

Media Release: Australia's neuromuscular peak body strengthened by new Board appointments

The national voice and peak body for Australia's neuromuscular community, Muscular Dystrophy Foundation Australia (MDFA), today announced the appointments of Ms. Carla Fairweather, Ms. Susan Kirby and Mr. Nick Smith to its Board of Directors.

MDFA Chief Executive Officer, Ryan Talsma, welcomed the appointments and acknowledged the broad skills now represented at the Board level.

"We are grateful to have been able to attract Carla, Susan and Nick to the Board. They will bring extensive experience to the Board and I look forward to working with them along with other Board Directors David Kay, John Salmon, Victor Attwood and Aaron Schier in delivering MDFA's strategic objectives," Mr Talsma said.

Ms Fairweather (appointed in July), is a Chartered Accountant and experienced corporate executive who is currently a Managing Director with FTI Consulting, serving in the firm's Corporate Finance and Restructuring Division. Carla has worked across professional services, banking and the not for profit sectors – holding senior manager roles in Australia and internationally.

Ms Kirby is a legal practitioner with experience as a legal academic, government lawyer and solicitor in private practice. Most recently, Susan has served as a legal academic with the Australian National University's College of Law. Earlier, she held a number of senior Australian Government roles including five years as Deputy General Counsel, Department of Human Services.

Mr Smith is a publishing executive currently serving as Group Content Director with Medium Rare Content Agency. Earlier roles include an appointment as a Medium Rare Board Director, CEO of Buro Global and a number of senior roles with News Limited – including Editor in Chief, GQ Australia Magazine and later Director, Prestige and Lifestyle Division (with executive responsibility for Vogue Australia, GQ Australia Magazine, Vogue Living, Body and Soul and a number of other publications).

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About Muscular Dystrophy Foundation Australia

Muscular Dystrophy Foundation Australia (MDFA) is the national voice and peak body representing the interests of more than 40,000 Australians living with muscular dystrophy, and similar, rare conditions. Muscular Dystrophy (MD) is an 'umbrella' term that refers to a group of rare, complex, genetic conditions within a wider group of more than 75 conditions collectively referred to as neuromuscular conditions (NMCs). NMCs cause progressive deterioration of muscle strength and function and commonly result in profound disability.

MDF is committed to advocating on behalf of our community to influence improved health, social and economic outcomes. Our members are state and territory-based organisations which provide specialised support and services for their neuromuscular communities. This includes professional services as registered NDIS providers.

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