



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## NEW CHAIR APPOINTED TO THE BARWON HEALTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr Owen Donald FIPAA, MAICD has been appointed to the position of Chair of the Barwon Health Board of Directors, commencing on 1 July 2009.

The appointment of Dr Donald sees the stepping down of Claire Higgins after seven years as the Chair and a total of nine years as a Director - the maximum term under the Legislation.

"I am proud that I have had the opportunity to be associated with a community asset the calibre of Barwon Health."

"It has been my pleasure to have worked with all the staff and volunteers at Barwon Health. The quality of the care and services offered by Barwon Health is a reflection of the commitment of its people. I am sure that Dr Donald will enjoy his time with Barwon Health as much as I have."

Incoming Chair, Dr Donald says that chairing the team at Barwon Health is a welcome and exciting step for him.

"Barwon Health is an exceptionally important community asset that has achieved a great deal and has a solid balance sheet."

"I am privileged to have been charged with the responsibility of continuing to develop Barwon Health on behalf of the community and to ensure the ongoing delivery of top quality health services to the region" he said.

Dr Donald's principal residence is in St Leonards. He has over thirty years experience in policy development, service delivery and financial management at Commonwealth and State levels and in the private sector. He started his career in health services research and planning before moving into policy advising and senior management roles. He has a strong background in managing public assets, including as Director of Housing in Victoria until July 2007 and as a Board member of Southern Health until June this year.

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