

Stride Mental Health CEO Announcement

It is with regret that we announce that Dr Andrew Young is stepping down from his role as Chief Executive Officer of Stride Mental Health, effective Friday 30th July 2021.

Andrew has been CEO since June 2017 and has led the organisation through a period of significant transformation including adapting to the introduction of the NDIS. Andrew led the establishment of Stride's bold new identity after 113 years as *Aftercare*. Andrew also led an outstanding organisation response to the COVID pandemic, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of service users and staff.

Late in 2020 Andrew was diagnosed with a rare but aggressive cancer, for which he recently successfully completed treatment. He was due to return to his CEO role in August, but in recent weeks in discussion with the Stride Board has decided that now is the right time for him to step down in pursuit of a new challenge. Stride's Acting CEO Drikus van der Merwe will continue in that role for the immediate future.

Outgoing CEO Dr Young said "It has been an absolute privilege to play a leadership role in Australia's oldest mental health charity over the past four years. Above all else, I admire the dedication Stride's people show to our service-users day-in and day-out, and especially through the challenges of recent years".

Stride Chair John (JT) Thomas said "Andrew has been an inspirational leader during a time of upheaval and change for our sector. Andrew's legacy is that Stride has a clear new focus and direction for the future".

"At a personal level and on behalf of the Board, staff and service users, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and well-wishes to Andrew as he pursues new directions".

John (JT) Thomas

