

18 March 2022

Stride Mental Health is pleased to announce the appointment of Drikus van der Merwe as our Chief Executive Officer, effective 21 March 2022.

A highly experienced senior executive, Drikus brings an extensive background in sectors including education, IT and hospitality, along with his experience in mental health gained at Stride.

Drikus joined Stride in 2018 to lead the Stride Corporate Services team and later stepped into the Acting CEO role at the request of the Board. In these roles at Stride, he has proven to be a dedicated, capable leader and has demonstrated his commitment to Stride's stakeholders, consumers and values.

Stride continues to work in partnership, in early intervention and supporting people with persistent mental illness and complex needs to lead fulfilling lives each day. This same vision has been at the core of Drikus' direction ensuring that services are delivered with this purpose.

Stride's Chair of the Board, John (JT) Thomas, shared that Stride has been on a significant transformation process over the past few years in line with changes in the sector, expanding high quality services and securing growth opportunities.

*"We believe that Drikus has the experience and is ideally placed to continue to lead our organisation through this challenge and opportunity. Stride will continue to focus on sustainability and continue to drive its far reaching strategic plan and Drikus will lead this important direction. Importantly, this will be in partnership with our stakeholders including consumers and carers, to ensure the growth and impact of Stride in the sector. As Chair of the Board, I look forward to working alongside Drikus to lead this organisation and the important work we do".*

We are very excited about what lies ahead for Stride and we thank our staff for their ongoing hard work, passion and commitment to the work we do.

**Sincerely**



**STRIDE** For better  
mental health

John (JT) Thomas  
Chairman, Stride Board