

MEDIA RELEASE
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Activ welcomes new chief executive officer and board chair

Activ is delighted to announce the appointment of Michael Heath as chief executive officer, effective from 22 November 2021, and Marcus Stafford AM as board chair, effective from 18 November 2021.

Mr Heath brings over 25 years' executive experience in property, aged care, and membership-based insurance.

Since 2016, Mr Heath has held the position of chief operating officer of the Hawaiian Group. Prior to this Mr Heath worked as the chief executive officer of the St Ives Group and Perth Racing and held senior executive management roles at the RAC for 16 years.

Mr Heath is a fellow of the Institute of Company Directors, a board member of MercyCare and the Australian Institute of Management WA, a committee member of the Carbine Club of WA and has been a director of several not-for-profit organisations.

Activ executive chair Neil Guard said Mr Heath brings a wealth of experience and a passion for community involvement to the role.

"Michael is well placed to lead Activ as we continue work to deliver our Independence strategy and transformation program," said Mr Guard.

"He has a strong track record in organisational achievement, operations management, business development and growth, strategic planning and partnerships, customer satisfaction and support, and change management.

"In addition, Michael's clear passion for community involvement is evidenced through his many voluntary roles with not-for-profit organisations and through his own charity, which supports athletes with disability."

Mr Heath succeeds Danielle Newport who resigned from the chief executive officer position in July 2021.

Mr Stafford has held the position of chief executive officer at MSWA since 2002, a role he will be stepping down from in October 2021.

Mr Stafford is a recognised industry leader and highly regarded chief executive officer.

In 2015, Mr Stafford was awarded the Australian Institute of Management award for the most outstanding chief executive officer in the not-for-profit sector in Australia.

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In 2017, he was the recipient of one of the nation's highest honours, Member of the Order of Australia, for his contribution to the disability sector.

Mr Stafford joined the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA Board in 2018 and was appointed vice president and deputy chair in 2019.

In recognition of his leadership within the state, Mr Stafford was awarded an honorary doctorate from Edith Cowan University in 2020.

Mr Guard said he was excited for Activ's future under Mr Stafford's leadership.

"Marcus is a strong executive leader with a corporate background who moved into, and succeeded in, the not-for-profit space," he said.

"Activ's current focus is the delivery of our Independence strategy and a successful organisational transformation, which will see Activ consistently deliver high quality supports and proven pathways to independence in line with our customers' goals.

"Marcus' skillset and experience puts Activ in a strong position for future success."

Mr Stafford succeeds Neil Guard who has served on the Activ Board for the past 10 years, including the past three in the board chair position.

"It has been a great honour to have served on the Activ Board. I am incredibly proud of our accomplishments over the past decade, supporting close to 2,000 Western Australians with intellectual disability to pursue the life they choose," he said.

Mr Guard will continue as executive chair until the Activ AGM on 18 November 2021.

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About Activ

Activ is the largest disability support provider in Western Australia. We provide individualised services for people living with intellectual disability. We offer services in accommodation, community, employment, training and education, short-term accommodation and behaviour support. Activ was founded in 1951 by a group of families who wanted more for their children who lived with disability and had become marginalised by society. Today, we support more than 1,900 individuals and their families across WA.

For more information visit www.activ.asn.au

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Important Information

When referring to people with disability, we ask that you use the term 'living with disability', rather than 'disabled person' or 'the disabled'. The term 'Supported Employee' is used when referring to an Activ employee living with a disability. The term 'customer' is used to refer to a person living with disability that Activ supports.