



# MEDIA RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Deafness Forum CEO Nicole Lawder appointed CEO of Homelessness Australia**

The Deafness Forum of Australia says it is extremely proud that its chief executive officer, Ms Nicole Lawder, has been appointed CEO of Homelessness Australia.

Mr Alex Jones, Chair of the Deafness Forum Board said today, "Thanks to Nicole's leadership, we are in a very strong position as a peak body organisation for people who are Deaf, deafblind, have a hearing impairment, or a chronic disorder of the ear. Nicole has built strong relationships with key stakeholders, government, the community and our members. We also acknowledge her hard work on the Governance of the organisation in the development of new policies and procedures and beyond".

Alex says Nicole's new role as CEO of Homelessness Australia will allow her to continue to work in the public interest and provide assistance for disadvantaged people.

Alex said today "Nicole is one of Australia's most highly regarded deafness advocates and we believe everyone will benefit from having Nicole at the helm of such a deserving organisation as Homelessness Australia."

"We thank Nicole for her tireless efforts and energy over the past four and a half years that has seen Deafness Forum emerge as a strong voice in advocating for people who are Deaf, deafblind, have a hearing impairment or a chronic disorder of the ear."

Ms Lawder said "My involvement with Deafness Forum has been an exceptional opportunity for me to work with a committed and passionate group of advocates. I am proud of my contributions to Australians who are Deaf, deafblind, have a hearing impairment or a chronic disorder of the ear and the broader disability sector through my work on the National Disability Strategy, aviation access, the Senate Inquiry into Hearing Health in Australia, captioning issues, telecommunications and more. While much remains to be done, I am confident that I have been able to contribute to important changes."

Nicole will commence her new role with Homelessness Australia at the end of September, but Deafness Forum says it will be business as usual while the Deafness Forum Board of Directors recruits for a replacement.

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### **About Deafness Forum of Australia**

Deafness Forum is a national peak body for people who are Deaf, deafblind, have a hearing impairment or chronic disorder of the ear. Deafness Forum is the national coordinating body for Hearing Awareness Week.

See [www.deafnessforum.org.au](http://www.deafnessforum.org.au) or [www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au](http://www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au)

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