

Media Release

The Board of Directors says goodbye to their long serving CEO Jan Ashford, who leaves the organisation at the end of September, after 35 years. Jan is stepping down to pursue individual work in the disability sector, which is her passion.

As CEO, Jan has overseen the growth of Communication Rights to what we see today - a highly respected human rights based organisation that has people with little or no speech at the centre of everything they do. In her time she has received the Ethel Temby Scholarship for an overseas scholarship to research human rights audit tools in America, United Kingdom and Canada. As result of this study Communication Rights developed their own in house human rights audit tool. Jan also led the agency to a National Disability Award in 2012 for Excellence in Advocacy and Rights Promotion, and was inducted with a 'Lifetime achievement honour roll - 2018 Victorian Disability Awards'. It is with great sadness we farewell Jan, whose contribution to Communication Rights Australia and the sector is difficult to describe given its significance.

The Communication Rights Australia Board is excited to announce the appointment of a new CEO, Kaya Latage. Kaya has a background in Social Work, Psychology, Family Therapy and is completing her Ph.D. in client, family and professional interactions and solutions around conflict and complexity during an inpatient hospital admission.

Kaya has 20 years of management experience in the field of disability, chronic illness and mental health. These roles have included the development, rolling out and leading innovative client/family support systems, information dissemination, rolling out of wrap around warm referral processes, development of community and professional education programs, advocacy, strategic, governance, budgetary and operational management, in addition to board membership on Communication Rights, Australia.

Kaya presently works with Mind Australia as Operational Service Manager and previously had worked as a Practice Leader and Family Convenor for DHHS.

We wish both the Jan and Kaya well in their new endeavours.

Julie Phillips
Chairperson
04/09/2018