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Media Release

New Chair appointed for Brave Foundation

National not-for-profit organisation Brave Foundation has announced the appointment of Dr Maria Harries as its Chair.

Professor Harries joins the Board following the retirement of previous Chair Gary Lottering, who was Chair for two years and has been on the Board since 2014.

CEO and Founding Director of Brave Foundation Bernadette Black said Professor Harries would bring extensive and relevant experience to the Board as its newly appointed Chair and director.

“Professor Harries is a highly experienced and well credentialed director, researcher and author who operates her own consulting practice including leading policy implementation for our most disadvantaged young people” Bernadette said.

“She is also an adjunct professor at Curtin University and an Associate Professor and Senior Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia.

“She has worked with a number of state and national organisations involved with mental health, child, adult and family welfare.

“Her experience and insight will be invaluable as we look to the next phase of Brave’s future.”

Professor Harries has been observing the impact and growth of Brave Foundation over the past five years.

“It is clear to see that the impact of Brave Foundations work is changing the lives of thousands of our nations young people, at risk of greatest disadvantage,” she said.

“By working collaboratively, Brave builds the community, nurturing and connecting the dots when this is needed.

“I am a champion for strategies that show excellence in early intervention policy design and can demonstrate impact.

“Brave is successful in both and its momentum is building.”

Mr Lottering said he had been honoured to chair the organisation, and work with CEO Bernadette Black, her devoted team and other Board members on Brave Foundation's ongoing development.

"In departing the Board, I am very pleased to be able to reflect on the positive impact the organisation has had nationally on so many expecting and parenting teens and their families," he said.

Since 2018, Brave Foundation's Supporting Expecting and Parenting Teens program has supported young parents to achieve goals in the areas of education, workforce participation, health, and wellbeing, as well as providing support for those requiring financial or housing assistance.

Visit www.bravefoundation.org.au to learn more.

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