

12 March 2019

St Bartholomew's House announces resignation of CEO

The Chairman of St Bartholomew's House, Michael Brown, has announced the resignation of the CEO, John Berger. Mr Berger will leave on 22 March to pursue new opportunities.

"The board thanks John for all he has done for St Bart's and the broader homelessness sector and wishes him every success in the future", said Mr Brown. "John has led St Bart's with distinction through five years of rapid change in both the external and internal environment."

"John has been a hard-working and tireless advocate for the homeless. He was instrumental in establishing the 'WA Alliance to End Homelessness' which culminated last year in the very successful launch of a 10-year strategy to end homelessness. John's work has contributed significantly towards shaping government policy and broader community debate about affordable housing and ending homelessness."

"As well as his advocacy work, John's leadership has seen St Bart's implement some critical projects. There is the service at Kensington St in East Perth, Perth's first specialist service to help the growing number of older women experiencing homelessness. The Kensington St service is funded by St Bart's and a number of generous private donors.

Secondly, John was instrumental in initiating the 'housing first' program funded by BHP and launched earlier this year. This is a pilot program based on the principle that people need secure housing before they can focus on the other challenges in their lives. Another example of John's leadership in the sector is his work with Homeless Healthcare and others planning for the establishment of a Medical Recovery Centre in Perth."

Mr Berger expressed his thanks to the staff at St Bart's for their support and for their commitment to the clients of St Bart's.

"It has been a privilege to lead such an important organisation and to contribute towards addressing one of the most challenging social issues of our time – that of homelessness. I am looking forward to the opportunity to spending more time focused on advocacy and policy work in the homelessness sector and to progressing the implementation of the 10-year strategy the Alliance launched last year."

Mr Joe Calleja, formerly CEO of Richmond Wellbeing will fill the role of interim CEO while a recruiting process takes place to fill the vacancy.

<ENDS>

Media Contact
Michael Brown, Chair of St Bartholomew's House
0400 927 132