



Media release

The Hon David Davis MLC
Minister for Health
Minister for Ageing

Tuesday 2 July 2013

VicHealth board members appointed

Health Minister David Davis has today announced the appointment of two new members to the Board of the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth).

High profile lawyer Peter Gordon returns to the VicHealth Board and is joined by communications and marketing expert Stephen Walter.

“The new board members are leaders in their fields and bring with them specific expertise which will guide VicHealth in the coming years,” Mr Davis said.

“I am pleased to welcome Peter Gordon back to the Board after taking a break in April 2012 to lead a number of landmark legal cases.

“He brings with him an intimate knowledge of the organisation, along with years of experience in class action tobacco and health litigation.

“Stephen Walter is a new addition to the Board. He has an extensive background in corporate communications, advertising and marketing.”

VicHealth Chair Mark Birrell said the new appointments complete the board membership and will allow VicHealth to fulfill the requirements of its new *Action Agenda for Health Promotion* over the coming years.

“VicHealth enjoys unique tri-partisan political support, which sets it apart from other organisations and gives us the opportunity to work with a variety of partners to tackle complex health issues,” Mr Birrell said.

“We have always been fortunate to have a diverse and knowledgeable board and I have no doubt Mr Gordon and Mr Walter will draw on their experience to add valuable insight to guide our work so that we can continue to provide world-class health promotion activity to all Victorians.”

Short bios of Mr Gordon and Mr Walter are attached.

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Peter Gordon

Mr Gordon is a lawyer in private practice and a leader in smoking and health litigation in Australia. He was first appointed to the VicHealth Board in 2006. During his time on the Board, he has taken on the roles of Deputy Chair, Chair of Victoria Walks and Chair of the Australian Community Centre for Diabetes. Mr Gordon is President of Footscray (Western Bulldogs) Football Club, and a former AFL Director (1990-93). He was founding co-chair of the McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer. He currently serves as Director of Gordon Legal, and Comprehensive Legal Funding LLC.

Stephen Walter

Mr Walter is a senior corporate affairs professional with over 35 years' experience in corporate communications, stakeholder relations, marketing and business development gained through the public and private sectors. He is currently principal and owner of Persuade Consulting. Prior to this, he was Chief of Staff at Australia Post and before that the Head of Corporate Public Affairs. He also sat on the Executive Committee for a decade. Mr Walter formerly held board membership at the Australian Association of National Advertisers. His community contributions include pro-bono work for Cottage by the Sea, a charity supporting disadvantaged children, and advisory services to the Special Olympics and Opera Australia.