

## The Australian Dental Council announces appointments to Board of Directors

**Melbourne, Victoria, 16 October 2019:** The Australian Dental Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Chris Bourke to the organisation's Board of Directors for a three-year term, effective from 13 September 2019.

A proud Gamillaroi man and the first Indigenous dentist in Australia, Dr Bourke spent 10 years in public dentistry working in Aboriginal dental services, school dental services, and public dental clinics. He also owned and operated a successful dental clinic for more than 16 years as well as maintaining a long commitment to community work with Aboriginal education committees and public health.

In 2004, Dr Bourke helped establish the Indigenous Dentists' Association of Australia and was appointed its inaugural President. Through his involvement, the Association was able to cement its position and influence policy development at the highest level.

Outside his professional experience, Dr Bourke has a 25 year history as an active member of his local community. He was elected to the ACT Legislative Assembly in 2011, the first Indigenous member, and was appointed Minister in 2016 with responsibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Children and Young People, Disability, Small Business and the Arts, Veterans and Seniors.

Dr Bourke's appointment coincides with the reappointments of Associate Professor John Boucher AM, Mr Anthony Evans, Professor Chris Peck, and Dr David Sykes OAM to the Australian Dental Council's Board of Directors for further three-year terms.

Dr Bourke's appointment, along with the reappointments of Associate Professor Boucher, Mr Evans, Professor Peck, and Dr Sykes, to the Board of Directors aligns with an exciting period in the work of the Australian Dental Council, explains incoming President, Professor Lindsay Richards.

"On behalf of the Australian Dental Council, it is a pleasure to welcome to Dr Bourke to the Board of Directors. His diverse skill set, coupled with his extensive experience in the health and government sectors, will be invaluable at a time where the organisation is increasingly turning its thoughts to the future," said Professor Richards.

"I congratulate all on their appointments. I look forward to working closely with each one of them in the coming months and draw on their knowledge and experience as the future strategic direction of the Australian Dental Council."

### **ENDS**

#### **For more information:**

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#### **About the Australian Dental Council**

Formed in 1993, the Australian Dental Council (ADC) is an independent organisation appointed by the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) to conduct assessment and accreditation functions for the dental profession under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS).

# MEDIA RELEASE



The ADC is an independent not-for-profit company limited by guarantee under the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. It holds charity status under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and is funded by a grant from the DBA and fee for service activities.

The Council recognises the value of a diverse and skilled workforce and is committed to creating and maintaining a diverse and inclusive culture, which draws on the backgrounds, experiences and perspectives of its people to enhance its decision making.

Current members of the ADC include key professional bodies, academic bodies and other members of the Australian dental profession.

**NOTES TO THE EDITOR:** Biographies for Associate Professor John Boucher AM, Mr Tony Evans, Professor Chris Peck, and Dr David Sykes OAM are available via the Australian Dental Council website [www.adc.org.au/About-Us/Board-Of-Directors](http://www.adc.org.au/About-Us/Board-Of-Directors)