

Monday 26 September 2022

The ADC welcomes the appointment of new Chair and Deputy Chair

Dr Chris Bourke, Australia's first Indigenous dentist, and co-founder and inaugural president of the Indigenous Dentists' Association of Australia, is the new Chair of the Australian Dental Council's Board of Directors. Dr Bourke and new Deputy Chair, Dr Janet Preuss were elected to their roles on the Australian Dental Council (ADC) Board of Directors in August. Their terms commence at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting on 11 November 2022.

Dr Bourke moves into the Chair from his current role as Deputy Chair. He replaces Professor Chris Peck as Chair.

"On behalf of the ADC Board, I would like to congratulate Dr Chris Bourke and Dr Janet Preuss on their new roles as Chair and Deputy Chair. Their experience and expertise in governance, business, research and healthcare brings enormous value as they lead the Australian Dental Council through the next stage in its role of accreditation and assessment of dental practitioners in Australia and beyond," ADC's outgoing Chair, Professor Peck said.

Dr Bourke has extensive experience beyond his work in public and private dental practice. He is currently Program Director – Indigenous Science and Engagement at Australia's national science agency, CSIRO. As the first Indigenous dentist in Australia, he helped establish the Indigenous Dentists' Association of Australia and became its inaugural President. He was a Member of the ACT Legislative Assembly, with various ministerial portfolios from 2011 to 2016.

"My role as Chair of the ADC Board is an extension of my previous work across the health sector to improve healthcare outcomes for Indigenous Australians, and also to promote and mentor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people seeking careers in health, specifically in dental health," Dr Chris Bourke said upon his appointment.

"The ADC Board has made a commitment to increasing the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across our Board and committees to strengthen our ways of knowing, being and doing in ADC's decision making," Dr Bourke said.

The ADC recently launched its Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and this appointment shows the plan in action.

Dr Janet Preuss, the new Deputy Chair, brings a business skill set to the Board and as a non-practitioner, brings her experience to the ADC in guiding strategy for commercialisation of new biotechnologies, establishing quality management systems and obtaining regulatory approvals. Dr Preuss is also a member of the Pharmacy Board of Australia as a community member.

Professor Peck departs the ADC Board after nine years. He has been active on a number of committees and led the development of revised competencies for dental practitioners during his tenure. Outside of the Australian Dental Council, Professor Peck has a long history in health and academic sectors including leading the University of Sydney's expansion into Australia's largest health precinct, and Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry.

"Professor Peck's contribution to the Australian Dental Council has been significant. He has played an active role on the Board of Directors during his tenure, bringing his experience from the University of Sydney and abroad, innovating and developing dental health education, and integrating dental and systemic health. I would like to thank him for his dedication and support for the Australian Dental Council," ADC CEO Narelle Mills said.

About Dr Chris Bourke

Dr Chris Bourke is a Gamillaroi man and Australia's first Indigenous dentist. With an extensive career in public and private practice, Dr Bourke helped establish the Indigenous Dentists' Association of Australia and was its inaugural President. From 2011 to 2016, Chris was a Member of the ACT Legislative Assembly, with various ministerial portfolios.

Between 2017 and 2021 he was Strategic Programs Director for the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association where he led their work on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, aged care, rural health, and oral health. He is currently Program Director - Indigenous Science and Engagement at Australia's national science agency, CSIRO.

He has been a member of the ADC Board of Directors since 2019 and is a member of the Accreditation Committee and the Professional Competencies Review Advisory Committee.

About Dr Janet Preuss

Dr Janet Preuss has a biomedical and business background, specialising in the commercialisation of new technologies. In addition to establishing her own service-based companies, Janet has held executive and non-executive roles in private, public, not-for-profit and government organisations and has worked in the UK and Hong Kong.

For more information:

Lisa Reid Manager, Communications Australian Dental Council Ph: 0419 498 913
Email: lisa.reid@adc.org.au

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).

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.