



Long standing Chief Executive Kim Macgowan to finish with The District Nurses

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After nearly two decades as the Chief Executive of The District Nurses, Kim Macgowan has announced she will finish with the organisation at the start of the Easter Break.

Chair of The District Nurses, Gayle Johnston paid tribute to Ms Macgowan who is credited with shaping the organisation into a modern and dynamic service provider delivering vital community nursing and in-home care across Tasmania.

“Kim has built The District Nurses into what we know it is today and has well and truly left her mark on the organisation,” Ms Johnston said.

Ms Macgowan said after 19 years it was with a heavy heart that it had been agreed between herself and the Board that she would not renew her contract, but that it was time for her to have a well-earned break.

“I joined The District Nurses in 2000 and said in my first Annual Report, ‘we will not take a backward step, we can step sideways, we can re-think, but the next step will always be forward’ and I believe we have achieved this,” Ms Macgowan said.

Ms Macgowan said among the many things that have occurred during her time with the organisation she was the proudest of vastly improving education and training standards, purchasing premises, pioneering the hospice at home program as well as seeing in the shift to consumer directed care.

“I have never looked back in this role and am proud of the achievements of this organisation,” Ms Macgowan said.

“We have assisted in greatly improving the education and training of our staff as well as ensuring the organisation has a permanent home.

“The hospice at home program saw 2,200 Tasmanians choose to spend their final days in the comfort of their own homes, while the introduction of consumer directed care means clients can now choose what care they get and when they get it, which is a vast improvement.”

Ms Macgowan who was the 2006 Telstra Tasmania Business Woman of the Year, worked as a triage nurse at the Royal Hobart Hospital during the Port Arthur massacre before working on the Kosovo refugee project said she was looking forward to break before deciding what is next.

The District Nurses is Australia's second oldest nursing services and was established in 1896, celebrating its' Double Diamond Jubilee in 2016. It currently employs some 140 staff delivering in-home services to older Tasmanians, a community clinic as well as caring for under 65's and people with disabilities.

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