

### **GROW Australia appoints a new Board Chair**

GROW Australia is delighted to announce that the Hon John Della Bosca AM has been appointed as its new Board Chair.

John served as Minister in a range of portfolios in the NSW Government, including Minister for Health, Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Ageing and Disability, Minister for Commerce and Special Minister of State.

He is a Director and Consultant with Discourse Consulting which has worked extensively in the NDIS.

John is a Director of Coast and Country Primary Care which pioneered a service known as Health off the Streets (HOTS), a model of providing Primary Care to Homeless people on the Central Coast of NSW. He also is a director of Independent Community Living Australia and the Chair of Family Drug Support.

John was Campaign Director for the *Every Australian Counts* Campaign which supported the establishment of the NDIS and brings tremendous insight into the NDIS and the health and disability sectors.

John has a long-standing commitment to mental health and wellbeing and recalls as a child that his father spent considerable time – and gained significant benefits – through his participation in the Grow Program (then called Recovery). He is passionately committed to improving access to and quality of mental health services.

“I am looking forward to the challenge of working within this great organisation which has such a strong heritage of improving the lives of so many people,” he said.

John also paid tribute to the outgoing Chair, Dr Lesley Van Schoubroeck, for the advances made in guiding GROW in challenging times over the past four years.

John was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2020 for his Services to the Community through Drug, Health, and Disability policy.

GROW is a community-based organisation that has helped thousands of Australians with their recovery from mental ill-health through a unique program of mutual support and personal development. The Grow Program is based on a 12-step program of personal growth of mutual help and support. The program is all-inclusive and draws on many principles for mental, social and spiritual health.

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**Key Facts:** Hon John Della Bosca AM appointed as new Board Chair for GROW Australia.

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