

# Media Release

## Gidget Foundation Australia secures Lindsay Cane AM to join board of Australia's leading perinatal mental health charity

Gidget Foundation Australia (GFA) has announced the appointment of accomplished social enterprise and health executive, **Lindsay Cane AM GAICD**, to join as Non-Executive Director of the Board. Lindsay's appointment will complement the existing board which boasts diverse and skilled leaders passionate about providing quality and accessible perinatal mental health support and services across the country.

An expert Non-Executive Director and former NFP CEO with proven practical knowledge and leadership skills across Health, Sport, Community and Government sectors, Lindsay's strengths are in strategic visioning and planning; organisational growth and reform, corporate and clinical governance; business and community development, advocacy and government relations, media and communications.

Lindsay brings expertise to support Gidget Foundation Australia's next phase of growth, having previously been an advisor to the NSW Minister's Rural Health Advisory Committee, a board member for the Commonwealth Games Committee and an advisor to the Prime Minister on health and philanthropy through the PM's National Roundtable and most recently heading up rural children's health charity Royal Far West and then as Project Director for the \$350 million redevelopment of the charity's beachfront property at Manly.

Of her appointment to the GFA board, Ms Cane said, "I am absolutely thrilled to be joining the Board of Gidget Foundation Australia, to have the opportunity to collaborate with such smart and skilled colleagues and to be part of an organisation dedicated to supporting expectant and new parents across Australia and ultimately our next generation is remarkable.

"I have observed the expansion of the Foundation within the sector, particularly over recent years, and am impressed with the trajectory of the organisation and look forward to being a part of the next chapter of GFA."

Gidget Foundation Australia, Chairperson Simone Short said, "Lindsay is a legend in the Not-for-profit sector, and as a leader. The whole board and team are excited about the wealth of knowledge and experience and energy she will bring to our organisation.

"The timing is right for Lindsay to join us as we prepare for our next phase of expansion as Australia's leading clinical perinatal service provider.

Gidget Foundation CEO, Arabella Gibson says, "We have a dynamic board with experience across mental health, commercial and professional services, and lived experience. Having Lindsay's 30+ years non-profit and commercial expertise is the perfect complement. I am eager to continue to work with our talented people to further progress our mission of supporting new and expectant parents across Australia."

Lindsay joins an established board with Simone Short, Chairperson and Gidget's youngest sister, Jarrod Bowditch, Founding Board Member, Jessica Davis, Partner at KPMG, Strehon Billingham, CEO of St John of God and Company Secretary, Mirela Leko, Group Senior Legal Counsel at Ramsay Health Care.

Lindsay was made a Member of the Order of Australia in June 2019 for her lifetime contribution to community health and rural communities, awarded CEO of the Year in the 2019 third sector awards, and is a previous NSW finalist in the Telstra Businesswoman Awards.

Lindsay is also a Non-Executive Director for Society of Hospital Pharmacists Australia (SHPA), Western Sydney Primary Health Network (Went West) and a recently retired NED with the Confederation of Australian Sport (CAS).

# Available for interview

**Lindsay Cane AM, Non Executive Director at Gidget Foundation Australia**

**Sydney, NSW**



Lindsay is an experienced Board Director and NFP CEO. She is accomplished in the governance and leadership of social enterprises, health businesses, professional associations, sporting organisations and community agencies. She proudly serves as a NED with the Western Sydney Primary Health Network (WentWest), the Society of Hospital Pharmacists Australia (SHPA), the Confederation of Australian Sport (CAS) and Gidget Foundation Australia (GFA).

Lindsay has deep sector experience, leadership and strong operational empathy across the health, sport, government and corporate sectors, as both a CEO and a Company Director. She has a broad range of skills in corporate and clinical governance, allied health and medical management, disability and community service, sport, indigenous health and rural Australia. Lindsay also has construction and property development experience, having delivered the \$41 million Centre for Country Kids and as Project Director for the \$350 million redevelopment of RFW's beachside assets.

As a NED, Lindsay is experienced in both challenging and supporting Executive teams while always staying within a strategic mindset. She is a Graduate member of the AICD, a mentor and leader in the not for profit industry and an active Company Director. She serves on two Noms and Governance Committees and is the Chair of WentWest's Neighbourhood Health Hub Committee, as well as being a Trustee of her own SMSF.

Lindsay was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia in 2019 and voted Third Sector CEO of the Year in 2019. She was previously a NSW finalist in Telstra's Businesswoman of the Year.

Lindsay is committed to advancing good governance at all levels and she brings a creative, innovative and energetic approach to all the organisations she serves.



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Lindsay Cane AM brings over 30 years of experience to the Board of Gidget Foundation Australia



2019

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2019

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## Gidget Foundation Australia

Gidget is the nickname of a vibrant young mother from Sydney's Northern Beaches who took her own life while suffering from unrecognised postnatal depression. She hid her suffering even from her loving family and friends. In her name, Gidget Foundation was created, determined that what happened to Gidget would not happen to others.

Today, Gidget Foundation Australia is a leading not-for-profit organisation that assists thousands of expectant and new parents and their families each year providing free psychological services to parents in need through its Gidget House face-to-face services (at an expanding number of locations), Start Talking telehealth program and Emotional Wellbeing antenatal screening programs conducted through participating hospitals.

Gidget Foundation Australia will be expanding following Commonwealth Government funding in the October 2022 budget with \$15.85 million commitment allocated to support the establishment and operation of 12 new centres expanding on the existing 24 Gidget Houses currently operating across the country.

Gidget House locations across Australia in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

NSW: North Sydney, Northern Beaches Hospital with Healthscope, Randwick at Karitane, Merrylands at Stockland, North Sydney at the Mater Hospital, St Leonards at North Shore Private Hospital, Westmead Private Hospital, Shellharbour at Stockland Shellharbour, Cowra, Kareena Private, Griffith, Armidale, and at Tresillian family care centres in Lismore, Moruya, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Queanbeyan, Taree and Wagga Wagga.

VIC: Frances Perry House, Fitzroy at St Vincent's Private Hospital, Clayton at Jean Hailes

QLD: Toowoomba at St Vincent's Private Hospital.

## About Gidget Foundation Australia

Gidget Foundation Australia (GFA) is a not-for-profit organisation that exists to support the emotional wellbeing of expectant and new parents, to ensure they receive timely, appropriate and specialist care. Gidget Foundation Australia provides a range of clinical treatment programs. These include individual psychological consultations (with no out-of-pocket expenses) via face to face or telehealth, group treatment and early intervention screening.