



Supporting Mental Health & Wellbeing

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**DATE: 14 AUGUST 2017**

### **MARK ORR APPOINTED AS NEW FLOURISH AUSTRALIA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Flourish Australia Chair Professor Elizabeth More AM today announced that Mark Orr has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer.

Currently Flourish Australia's Chief Information Officer, Mark has an extensive background in the mental health, disability services and not-for-profit sectors, and also in government.

He was Divisional Manager (Rehabilitation) of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Australia (PRA) prior to the merger of Richmond Fellowship of NSW and PRA in 2012.

He was the Deputy Protective Commissioner of NSW for six years and is an experienced governance professional, having held senior board positions in the not-for-profit sector.

"The Flourish Australia Board undertook an extensive and independent recruitment process to appoint the new CEO, attracting a strong field of more than 100 inquiries and 70 applications", Professor More said.

"Mark was selected on qualifications, commitment, vision, experience and merit, and is undoubtedly the outstanding person to lead the organisation into its future in a challenging environment".

Professor More said the board's recruitment timetable provided for a smooth handover before Flourish Australia's current Chief Executive Officer Pamela Rutledge retires at the end of 2017.

"It is an exciting, significant and welcome milestone that Mark will take over the mantle of Chief Executive Officer from Pamela", Professor More said.

"Pamela and Mark have worked together for many years and Mark has been a major contributor to the strong focus on recovery and the value of lived experience which is the core of Flourish Australia's culture and strategy.

"There will be a seamless handover, ensuring Flourish Australia continues to deliver high quality services to people with a lived experience of a mental health issue, their families and carers.

"Pamela's leadership has been extraordinary. We all thank her for her valuable contributions and wish her well."

Mark will commence as Chief Executive on 1 January 2018.

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES: MATTHEW WATSON – 0417 691 884**

**Flourish Australia is a not-for-profit organisation providing support programs, employment, accommodation and hope for 5000 people with mental health issues in New South Wales and Queensland. Advocating community-based assistance, it is a leading mental health support provider that has been in operation for 60 years.**