

MEDIA RELEASE

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Glyn Davis AC to join Opera Australia board

Professor Glyn Davis AC will join the board of Opera Australia in November 2021.

The distinguished academic and philanthropic sector leader will become chair after a handover from David Mortimer AO, who has announced he will step down in early 2022 after nine years in the role.

“Glyn is one of Australia’s most respected thinkers and civic leaders. He is widely recognised for his passion about the role of the arts in Australia’s intellectual and cultural life,” Mr Mortimer said.

“He will enrich the board by bringing broad experience that spans public policy, government, education, social enterprise and the arts, including work on the boards of the Queensland Theatre Company and Melbourne Theatre Company.

“Now that our next chief executive officer has been announced, we are completing the transition with a leadership team which can continue to build a strong future for the Company and delight our audiences,” Mr Mortimer said.

Professor Davis said he was thrilled to be joining Opera Australia.

“For nearly 70 years, a dedicated group of artists and opera lovers have developed Opera Australia to an international standard and attracted wide acclaim for the Company,” Professor Davis said.

“To join this enterprise and be part of Australia’s largest arts company is an honour.

“Opera Australia has surprising reach, from schools and community halls in regional Australia to opera theatres in our capital cities. It supports and showcases great Australian singers and musicians, sustains international exchanges, and provides employment for many talented people in the arts.

“There is enthusiasm in the Company and audiences to bring even more Australian voices, libretti and musical scores to the stage.

“I look forward to joining the board of Opera Australia, incoming CEO Fiona Allan, esteemed artistic director Lyndon Terracini and the whole Company in ensuring opera confirms its distinguished place among the arts as we emerge from Covid lockdowns,” Professor Davis said.

A political scientist by training, Professor Davis is CEO of the Paul Ramsay Foundation, an organisation that breaks the cycle of disadvantage through programs to address intergenerational poverty. He also holds the role of Distinguished Professor in the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University and is Visiting Professor at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford.

His appointment follows the announcement last month that eminent international performing arts leader Fiona Allan will be the next Chief Executive Officer of Opera Australia, succeeding Rory Jeffes when he steps down from the role in November 2021.

See following page for short bio.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Janet Glover | Communications Manager | +61 412 601 816 | janet.glover@opera.org.au

Professor Glyn Davis

Professor Glyn Davis AC joined the Paul Ramsay Foundation as Chief Executive officer in January 2019. This is Australia’s largest philanthropic endowment, with a mission to break the cycle of disadvantage by addressing intergenerational poverty.

Professor Davis was previously Vice-Chancellor at the University of Melbourne from 2005-2018, and Vice-Chancellor at Griffith University from 2002.

Alongside his role at the Foundation and at Opera Australia, Glyn Davis holds a number of academic appointments. He is Distinguished Professor of Political Science in the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University, Visiting Fellow at the Blavatnik School of Government and Visiting Fellow at Exeter College, Oxford.



Professor Davis is a public policy specialist and co-author of the *Australian Policy Handbook*, with experience in government and higher education. He delivered the 2010 the Boyer Lectures on the theme *The Republic of Learning*, and in 2017 published *The Australian Idea of a University*. His most recent book is *On Life’s Lottery*, published by Hachette in 2021.

His arts involvement includes service on a range of arts boards, including the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and the Queensland and Melbourne Theatre Companies.

In 2018 and 2019 Professor Davis served on an independent review of the Australian Public Service, described by the Prime Minister on commissioning as the most substantial review of Australian public administration in 40 years.

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