

MEDIA RELEASE

Human Services Skills Organisation appoints new CEO, Jodi Schmidt

17 November 2020: The Human Services Skills Organisation (HSSO) announced the appointment of Jodi Schmidt as its inaugural Chief Executive Officer. Jodi will lead the HSSO as it implements its vision of ensuring that Australia will be equipped with a diverse, skilled and adaptable workforce that meets Australia's human services needs both now and into the future.

The HSSO is an initiative led by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment as part of the *Delivering Skills for Today and Tomorrow* package. The Federal Government has tasked the HSSO with shaping the training system of its industry to be more responsive to employer skills needs and improving employer confidence in the quality of Vocational Education and Training (VET) graduates.

The HSSO is currently working in collaboration with sector stakeholders to contribute to the development of short-term projects to improve the relevance, responsiveness and quality of training, alongside a model for the longer-term operations and priorities of the pilot.

Jodi is an experienced CEO with a track record of successful business transformation, improving profitability and significantly enhancing shareholder value. Jodi has over the last three years been consulting across a number of industry sectors. These include education and training, property and real estate, manufacturing, human services, ICT and digital businesses in the areas of strategic planning, CEO/executive coaching, leadership and culture development and business performance and advisory.

Jodi brings to the HSSO extensive experience in the VET sector. Jodi has previously served as the Deputy Director-General, Training and Employment with the Queensland Government, and then as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of TAFE Queensland leading the reform and amalgamation of TAFE Institutes in Queensland and establishing it as one consolidated commercial entity. She also served as the Chair of the National Education and Foundation Skills – Industry Reference Committee (IRC), and has been a member of a number of National review Boards and expert panels.

Prior to this, she held various senior executive positions in both Australia and the United Kingdom in health, defence and local government in both the public and private sectors and holds qualifications in Marketing, Accounting and Market Research.

Quote attributable to Jodi Schmidt, CEO at Human Services Skills Organisation:

“I am excited to join the Human Services Skills Organisation at a critical time for both the Aged Care and Disability Services Sectors. This is a great opportunity to play a key role in bringing together Government, industry and training providers to ensure Australia's Human Services sector is equipped with a diverse and skilled workforce that can adapt to meet the needs of clients both now and into the future.”

“We will work with stakeholders to trial new ways to be more responsive to the skills needs in these sectors and to facilitate collaboration between industry, employers and training providers to create a sustainable care workforce.”



Quote attributable to John Murray, Chairman at Human Services Skills Organisation:

“On behalf of the HSSO Board, we are very delighted to have Jodi Schmidt join the Human Services Skills Organisation as our Chief Executive Officer. Together with the Board, Jodi will play an important role to help shape the strategic direction of the HSSO as we create a path forward to better align industry with the training sector. Her depth of experience in the vocational education and training sector will be a great asset to HSSO and we look forward to working with Jodi.”

For further information, please contact the HSSO Project management team, hss@au.ey.com