

LEIGH CLIFFORD APPOINTED CHAIRMAN

Professor Terry Dwyer, Director, today announced the appointment of Leigh Clifford AO as the new Chairman of the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute.

Mr Clifford, the current Chairman of Qantas and former chief executive of Rio Tinto, succeeds retiring Chairman Laurence G Cox this month.

Professor Dwyer said Mr Clifford would strengthen the board by bringing diverse corporate experience.

“With almost 40 years experience in the corporate sector both in Australia and overseas, Leigh will add invaluable expertise to the board to continue building on the success of the Institute. We are delighted to have someone of his calibre lead our team,” Professor Dwyer said.

Mr Clifford said: “Murdoch Childrens is recognised globally for its work and has a track record of research excellence. I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to help the Institute achieve its mission to improve the health and wellbeing of Australian children and their families.”

Mr Clifford held a wide variety of operational and marketing roles during his 37 year career at Rio Tinto, and was appointed as chief executive in 2000. He retired from the role in April 2007 and joined the board of Qantas as Chairman in November 2007. He is also a director of Barclays Bank, Bechtel Group Inc in the USA, Chairman of Bechtel Australia Pty Ltd, and senior adviser to Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. Mr Clifford was honoured as an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) on Australia Day 2008.

Professor Dwyer thanked Mr Cox for his contribution: “Having led growth and change to enable Murdoch Childrens to become what it is today, Laurie will leave an enduring legacy as our researchers continue to create knowledge to improve the health and happiness of children.”

Mr Cox joined the Institute as a founding director in 1985 and was appointed Chairman in 1993.

Murdoch Childrens is Australia's largest and most prestigious research institute, with more than 1,200 researchers. Key priority areas include diabetes, allergies, asthma, premature birth and mental health problems, which are on the rise in our children, and conditions such as cancer and genetic disorders that remain unsolved.

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