

First State Super integrates advice

First State Super has announced it will fully integrate its financial advice business, StatePlus.

First State Super CEO Deanne Stewart said: “Providing quality financial advice is a key differentiator of the value we offer to our members and to fully realise the opportunity presented through our acquisition of StatePlus, our businesses will now integrate.

“We want to make advice accessible for all of our members because we believe in the difference quality advice can make to their retirement outcomes. Our new integrated structure will help us to continue to deliver and evolve our range of personalized advice services.”

As a result of the integration, **James Panaretos**, General Manager, Business Development & Marketing and **Andrew Vogt**, General Manager, Financial Planning are leaving in conjunction with the operational integration of StatePlus into First State Super.

James joined StatePlus as General Manager Business Development in 2014 and was appointed to the role of General Manager Business Development and Marketing in 2015.

Andrew was General Manager Health Super Financial Services when it merged with First State Super in 2011. Andrew continued to grow the advice business at First State Super as General Manager Financial Planning and then joined the executive team at StatePlus when the business was acquired in 2016.

StatePlus CEO, Graeme Arnott, said: “James and Andrew have played important executive roles in the evolution and growth of our award-winning financial advice business. I have valued their counsel and leadership and thank them for their outstanding contribution.”

Graeme Arnott, who has led StatePlus since it was acquired by First State Super in 2016, has been appointed to the role of Deputy CEO at First State Super. Graeme’s first responsibility will be to oversee the integration of StatePlus and he will act in the role of Group Executive Advice until a permanent appointment is announced later in the year.

In other First State Super news **Guy McAliece**, Chief Operating Officer, has announced he will retire from the fund later this month. Guy is widely recognised for his expertise and leadership in the superannuation industry over many years, having been Lead Partner, Superannuation at KPMG prior to joining First State Super, initially to lead its Insurance function in 2014 and then as COO in 2015.

Jo Brennan has been appointed to the role of Chief Operating Officer. In this role Jo will be responsible for member operations, technology, business improvement and the member contact centre.

Prior to joining First State Super, Jo was General Manager with Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Jo has extensive experience in the financial services sector working in executive roles with QBE, Macquarie Group, NAB and Ernst & Young.

Mary Murphy, First State Super Chief Digital Officer, who has served in several senior roles over almost eight years will leave the fund. Amongst many achievements, Mary has spearheaded the evolution of the First State Super brand, implemented marketing technology capability and led the development of the digital member experience.

Deanne Stewart commented: “On behalf of the Executive and our whole team, I want to thank both Mary and Guy for their contributions to First State Super,” Ms Stewart said. “Amongst so many



achievements for the fund and the industry, Mary has spearheaded the evolution of the First State Super brand and the development of our digital member experience.”

“Guy has made an outstanding contribution to the superannuation sector through his career and led significant business transformation at First State Super, resulting in enhanced operational effectiveness and improved member experiences. Both Guy and Mary leave with the respect and appreciation of our Chairman, Directors and our entire team.” Ms Stewart said.

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