# The Leprosy Mission Australia farewells retiring CEO with immeasurable thanks

The Leprosy Mission Australia (TLMA) today announced that Mr Sheldon Rankin is retiring as CEO after nine years of dedicated and impactful service.

Board Chair Ms Jennifer Ward said, “On behalf of the Board of The Leprosy Mission Australia, it is with immeasurable thanks that we farewell Sheldon to retirement. Sheldon came to our organisation with an impressive resume leading international for purpose causes over many decades and he has put that experience to outstanding use in leading our mission.”

“Sheldon leaves TLMA with an extraordinary level of achievement and impact. It is financially stronger, reaching more supporters and delivering strong outcomes in defeating leprosy in our field programs and support of research. His legacy is considerable.”

“On a more personal note, Sheldon truly operates as a servant leader and his unwavering focus on people and helping make their lives better has earned significant respect and admiration. I know there will be people across Australia and across our mission globally who will join me in wishing him all the best for life and work beyond the demands of executive leadership. He goes with our thanks, prayers and blessings.”

The Board of The Leprosy Mission Australia will shortly announce details regarding the appointment of a new CEO to lead the organisation’s ongoing ‘Triple Zero’ vision—zero leprosy transmission, zero new disability, and zero discrimination by 2035.

Mr Rankin’s last day with The Leprosy Mission Australia was 31 July 2023 and he remains committed to supporting a smooth handover and leadership transition over the next couple of months.

Prior to joining TLMA, Mr Rankin served almost a decade as Chief Executive Officer of the international development organisation International Needs Australia. This followed more than a decade with the Christian humanitarian organisation World Vision, which included serving as CEO South Africa, as a Sub-Region Director and as a Group Executive for Development and Relief Services.

Mr Rankin said, “It has been one of the great honours of my life to lead The Leprosy Mission Australia over the past nine years and to serve our mission across the world. I have been privileged to work with an exceptional team of people here in Australia and internationally as we pursue our goal to end Leprosy Transmission by 2035.”

“The Leprosy Mission Australia, and its big-hearted people and donors, will remain close to my heart as I move into retirement. I thank each of you for your support and I encourage you to keep marching forward. Together we will defeat leprosy.”

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