



Brighter Super endorses Ron Dewhurst as Chair-elect ahead of John Smith's retirement

The Board of Brighter Super has endorsed Deputy Chair Ron Dewhurst as Chair-elect ahead of the retirement of long-serving Chair John Smith, marking the next phase of Brighter Super's governance renewal following the merger of LGIASuper and Energy Super and the acquisition of Suncorp Super.

Mr Smith, who was appointed to the LGIASuper Board in 2013 and became Chair in December 2016, oversaw the mergers which created a \$35 billion superannuation fund with more than 280,000 members. Brighter Super has since delivered consistent top quartile returns, cut administration fees and emerged as Queensland's fourth-largest non-government financial institution*.

Mr Dewhurst, who joined the Board in 2018, was appointed as Deputy Chair in July 2025 and has been endorsed as Chair-elect at a time of significant board renewal, with three new directors appointed this year.

Corinne Butler was appointed on 8 July 2025 as an Employer Representative Director nominated by Energy Queensland Limited. A director at Energy Queensland, Ms Butler brings extensive experience in human resources, governance, and advisory boards across diverse industries, complemented by a strong executive background in the health sector.

Rebecca Girard joined the Board on 1 April 2025 as a Member Representative Director nominated by The Services Union. Ms Girard brings deep industrial relations expertise as Deputy Secretary of the Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union Queensland Branch, and has previously served as a trustee director of Energy Super and CareSuper.

Cameron O'Neil joined the Board on 4 March 2025. The Deputy Mayor of the Maranoa Regional Council, Mr O'Neil has served as a councillor since 2012 and has held numerous board and government advisory roles. He is also Chair of the Country Universities Centre Maranoa and a non-executive director of Golden West Apprenticeships.

Mr Dewhurst brings extensive experience from senior executive and board roles in Australia and overseas.

He is currently Chair of Sprott Inc and a Director of the Breast Cancer Network of Australia. His past roles include Senior Executive Vice President at Legg Mason Inc and Managing Director and Head of Americas at JP Morgan Investment Management.

Mr Dewhurst thanked the Board for their endorsement and praised Mr Smith's contribution during a period of significant change for Brighter Super.

"It is a privilege to be entrusted with this role, and I am honoured by the Board's confidence in my leadership capabilities," Mr Dewhurst said.

"John Smith has been an outstanding Chair – steering Brighter Super through transformative mergers, delivering strong returns, and ensuring members remain at the heart of every decision. I look forward to building on his legacy and working with the Board and Executive to further strengthen our position for members' long-term benefit."

Reflecting on his tenure, Mr Smith said the fund was well positioned for the future.



"It has been an honour to serve Brighter Super members over the past 12 years. We have brought together three funds under one brand, maintained high standards of service, and delivered consistently strong investment performance. The fund is in excellent shape, with a committed Board, a capable Executive team, and a clear strategy for the years ahead. The future bodes well for our members."

Brighter Super CEO Kate Farrar said the Board changes mark an important step in the fund's governance renewal and future growth.

"John's leadership has been instrumental in shaping Brighter Super into the strong, member-focused fund it is today. We look forward to working with Ron as Chair-elect and to the valuable contributions of Rebecca, Corinne, and Cameron as we continue to deliver for our members."

In addition, the Board has appointed Directors Australia to help it identify a suitable replacement to fill Mr Smith's vacancy as an independent director after he retires on 1 December 2025.

For more information visit brightersuper.com.au/about-us/meet-the-team

ENDS-

Media contact:

Sid Maher, Senior Journalist
Cole Lawson Communications
M: 0401 704 384
E: sid.maher@colelawson.com.au

About Brighter Super

Brighter Super is a 100% member-owned, Queensland-based superannuation fund managing more than \$35 billion in retirement savings for over 280,000 members, as at 30 June 2025.

Following the merger of LGIAsuper, Energy Super, and the acquisition of Suncorp Super, Brighter Super is proudly the fourth largest non-government financial institution* in Queensland.

The fund is dedicated to being right by members' sides, empowering them to retire confidently with advice, focusing on solid performance and low fees.

For more information, please call Brighter Super on 1800 444 396 (in Australia).

* Based on assets under management of non-government financial institutions in Queensland.

Brighter Super Trustee (ABN 94 085 088 484 AFS Licence No. 230511) ("Trustee") as trustee for Brighter Super (ABN 23 053 121 564) ("Fund"). Brighter Super may refer to the Trustee or the Fund as the context may be. Brighter Super products are issued by the Trustee on behalf of the Fund. This media release provides general information only and does not take into account your individual objectives, financial situation or needs. You should consider whether it is appropriate for your needs prior to making any decisions and consult a licensed financial advisor if you require advice. Obtain and consider the Product Disclosure Statement and Target Market Determination before making any decision to acquire any products. Visit <https://www.brightersuper.com.au/pds-and-guides>