

SYDNEY February 11, 2021 – The Conexus Institute has celebrated its first anniversary and expanded its advisory board to include Dr Deborah Ralston and Associate Professor Geoff Warren.

Most recently Ralston was a panel member of the Retirement Income Review and has held a range of positions in academia and industry. Warren is a leading researcher at Australian National University in the areas of pensions and investments. All advisory board members work on a pro-bono basis.

Ralston and Warren join an advisory board with a broad range of knowledge and experiences (see Appendix for full details).

“I see an ongoing need for high quality independent research,” Ralston commented on her appointment to the Conexus Institute advisory board. Ralston was recently a panel member of the Retirement Income Review which is expected to inform government policy in many areas including the level of the superannuation guarantee, the need for superannuation funds to provide more advanced retirement solutions, and the benefits of engagement and financial literacy.

“I’m focused on applying my experience and research skills to improve financial outcomes for Australians,” said Ralston who is also a member of the Reserve Bank of Australia Payments System Board and a Professorial Fellow at Monash University.

ANU Associate Professor Geoff Warren commented on his appointment to The Conexus Institute advisory board: “The work the Conexus Institute has undertaken in its first year demonstrates the value of the research-for-impact model. It is a model I strongly support”. Warren’s research career at ANU is complemented by over 20 years of industry experience in investment roles.

Established as an independent, philanthropically funded think tank designed to be a catalyst for positive change to Australia’s retirement system, The Conexus Institute adopts a research-for-impact model. Research is produced, typically in a collaborative model, which accounts for both theoretical and practical issues. Research is generally made open source and can be accessed at the [Conexus Institute website](#).

“We believe independent research which marries academic techniques with industry considerations is important in the present environment,” commented David Bell, executive director, The Conexus Institute.

Bell said this year the Institute will continue to focus on the controversial Your Future, Your Super reforms before moving onto financial guidance and retirement. However Bell said it is necessary to maintain the flexibility to respond to any policy or regulatory announcements. “We are in an environment of heightened policy and regulatory announcements. We need to increase awareness of the ramifications and hopefully contribute to better policies, regulatory processes and industry practices.”

“Thank you to all those individuals and their sponsoring institutions who have collaborated with The Conexus Institute during the last year – we believe collaboration leads to better research,” Bell said.

Contact details for media inquiries:

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Appendix

Advisory board members. See [here](#) for full background on all members.

Member	Primary Affiliations
Hazel Bateman	UNSW and CEPAR (Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research)
David Bell	The Conexus Institute
Marisa Broome	FPA (Financial Planning Association) and Wealthadvice
Greg Cooper	Company director, NSW Treasury Corporation, Perpetual Limited, Colonial First State, Australian Indigenous Education Foundation, Kincoppal Rose Bay School of the Sacred Heart and OpenInvest Holdings Limited
Jeremy Cooper	Challenger
Ian Fryer	Chant West
Pamela Hanrahan	UNSW, board roles, Business Law Section of the Law Council of Australia and Landcom
David Knox	Mercer
Xavier O'Halloran	Super Consumers Australia
Kevin O'Sullivan	UniSuper
Deborah Ralston	Member of the Reserve Bank of Australia Payments System Board and Professorial Fellow at Monash University
Nicolette Rubinsztein	Company director, UniSuper, Zurich & OnePath Insurance, Class Limited, CBHS Health Fund, SuperEd and Greenpeace Australia Pacific
Colin Tate (Founder and Chair)	Conexus Financial and The Conexus Institute
Geoff Warren	Australian National University
Amanda White	Conexus Financial

About the Conexus Institute

Established as an independent, philanthropically funded think tank designed to be a catalyst for positive change to Australia's retirement system, The Conexus Institute adopts a research-for-impact model. Much of its work involves collaborating with industry and academia while the Institute presents itself as an unbiased sounding board resource for regulators and policymakers.

Notable pieces of work over the last year included growth / defensive asset categorisation, research on portfolios with illiquid assets, analysis of the Your Future, Your Super performance

test and involvement in the UNSW Sandbox Program. Research is generally made open source and can be accessed at the [Conexus Institute website](#).

The priorities for this year will be to continue to focus on the Your Future, Your Super reforms, complete work on growth / defensive categorisation and the governance of portfolios with illiquid assets, before shifting the focus to financial guidance and retirement solution design.