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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

## APPOINTMENT OF THE HON DR KAY PATTERSON AS FULL TIME AGE DISCRIMINATION COMMISSIONER.

The Association of Independent Retirees (AIR) limited is pleased to welcome the Hon Kay Patterson as the new full time Age Discrimination Commissioner.

Executive Officer Sue Hart said that Dr Patterson is an ideal appointment, given her experience as a Federal Minister for Health and Ageing as well as Minister for Family and Community Services, and her present position as a Commissioner of the National Mental Health Commission.

Dr Patterson's expertise in Gerontology - the study of ageing, and her recent involvement with the Victorian Advisory Committee on Homelessness will be an invaluable background for her new position.

The Association of Independent Retirees, an organization of volunteers, complimented Dr Patterson on her long history of volunteerism on a number of community organizations over many years, and believe she will be well placed to support those many older Australians who continue contributing to their communities through volunteering.

Unfortunately Age Discrimination still exists in many aspects of our society, and I am sure Dr Patterson will represent the contributions of those in the community who experience any discrimination related to their age, Ms Hart said.

Members of the Association of Independent Retirees wish Dr Patterson well in carrying out her very important role in the community and look forward to working with her in the coming years.

For further information, contact Sue Hart, Executive Officer on 02 6290 2599

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The Association of Independent Retirees (A.I.R.) Ltd is a member-driven national, not for profit, non-political organisation which works to advance and protect the interests and independent lifestyle of Australians in retirement. A.I.R. seeks to secure recognition and equity for Australians who, through their diligence and careful management, fully or partly self-fund their own retirement needs.