

Tuesday, 17 February 2026

ARAS Chief Executive to step down after a decade of service

Aged Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS) today announced that its Chief Executive, Ms Carolanne Barkla, will step down from her role after ten years of dedicated service to the organisation and to the rights of older people.

The announcement was made by ARAS Chairperson, Anne Burgess AM, who confirmed that Ms Barkla's resignation will take effect from 4 July 2026, allowing time for a considered and orderly transition.

Ms Burgess said Ms Barkla had made an outstanding contribution to ARAS and to aged care advocacy in South Australia.

"Carolanne has provided exceptional leadership to ARAS over the past decade. Her unwavering commitment to the rights, dignity and wellbeing of older people has strengthened our organisation and amplified the voices of those who need advocacy the most," Ms Burgess said.

"Under her leadership, ARAS has navigated significant reform in the aged care system while remaining firmly focused on independence, integrity and human rights. The Board is deeply grateful for her service."

Ms Barkla said the decision to step down had been carefully considered.

"It has been a privilege to lead ARAS and to work alongside such a committed and values-driven team," Ms Barkla said.

"After ten years, I believe the time is right to hand over to new leadership. I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together and of ARAS's continued role in standing up for older people."

Ms Burgess said the Board would commence a formal recruitment process for a new Chief Executive in due course.

"We will work closely with Carolanne over the coming months to ensure continuity of leadership and services, and we look forward to building on the strong foundations she has established," she said.

Further information regarding interim arrangements will be announced as they are finalised.

ARAS has been supporting older people in South Australia to uphold their aged care and human rights since 1990