

SBS Farewells Chair George Savvides AM

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SBS Chair George Savvides AM to depart SBS as his second term concludes

Born of Greek Cypriot parents, Mr Savvides joined the SBS Board as Deputy Chair in February 2017 and was appointed Chair in July 2020. Throughout his service to the organisation, he has been strongly committed to serving contemporary Australia with diverse, multilingual and First Nations media services that strengthen inclusion and belonging for all.

During Mr Savvides' time as Chair, the public broadcaster has undergone a significant digital transformation, supported Australian communities through the Covid-19 pandemic, was recognised as the nation's most trusted news brand¹, named Australian podcaster of the year three years in a row², commenced work on its expansion to Western Sydney, and launched its Elevate Reconciliation Plan.



SBS Managing Director, James Taylor, said: "I'd like to congratulate George, on behalf of the Board and the organisation, for the immense contribution he has made to SBS over the last eight years. From the very beginning, he saw the potential and responsibility of SBS — not just to be a broadcaster, but to be a builder of trust, identity, and inclusion in this country.

"He's been a fierce advocate for SBS's independence and public value, and his voice has carried weight with government and community stakeholders who trust and respect him deeply."

Mr Savvides described his time as Chair of SBS, concluding with the broadcaster's 50th anniversary year, as "one of the greatest privileges of my professional life" and said he

¹ Reuter Institute Digital News Report 2024

² Australian Podcast Awards 2022, 2023, 2024

was supremely confident in the future of the organisation, which is today reaching more audiences than ever in over 60 languages across multiple platforms.

"As I prepare to depart the role of a lifetime, I'm proud that SBS continues to go from strength to strength, delivering essential services to all Australians with a strong focus on building respect, understanding and cohesion to deliver better social and economic outcomes for all the communities we serve," he said.

"SBS is a public institution that enjoys deep levels of trust among our audiences in an age of misinformation and polarisation. It continues to be an exemplar, offering a seat at the table to all Australians in every language, from every background, across a diverse range of experiences. The story of SBS is - and always has been - the story of Australia."

"I want to thank my fellow Board members and Managing Director James Taylor for their support and expertise over the years, as well as the incredible SBS team - who every day look to the future with the same courage and conviction that brought SBS into being 50 years ago."

Current SBS Deputy Chair Christine Zeitz will serve as Acting Chair until a new Chairperson is appointed by the Federal Government.

"George has been an outstanding Chair - bringing a rare combination of strategic discipline, lived values, and deeply personal leadership to the role. I thank him for his service, and I look forward to bringing an equal level of passion and dedication to delivering on SBS's Charter whilst serving as Acting Chair," she said.

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BIO: George Savvides AM

Mr Savvides was initially appointed as Deputy Chair of the SBS Board of Directors on 23 February 2017 before being appointed as Chair of the SBS Board on 9 July, 2020. George has extensive management and board experience working in government-owned enterprises and not-for-profit organisations.

With 30 years' experience in the Australian and New Zealand health care sector, he was CEO of two IPO listings on the ASX, Sigma in 1999 and Medibank Private in 2014, and served as the CEO of Medibank, for 14 years until 2016. He served as Chair of World Vision Australia until February 2018, and is a former Chair of Kings Group Ltd, Macquarie University Hospital, Next Science Pty Ltd and former Board member of NZX listed Ryman Healthcare. He is also currently Chair of I-MED Radiology Network, and a Board member of Insurance Australia Group Limited, and BuildXact Software Ltd.

Born in Sydney of Greek Cypriot parents, he moved to Melbourne with his family in 1992. He has an Honours degree in industrial engineering from UNSW, a Masters of Business Administration from University of Technology Sydney and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. In early 2020, George was made a member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the community, to charitable groups and to business. During his service on the SBS Board, George has been Chair of the SBS Board Remuneration Committee and a member of SBS's Community Advisory Committee.

BIO: Christine Zeitz

Appointed to the Board on 10 May 2018 and appointed to Deputy Chair on 30 September 2021, Christine Zeitz has over 35 years' global experience in strategy, revenue and profitability growth, business turnarounds, mergers and acquisitions, e-commerce, marketing, and building functional and cohesive teams. Christine is an experienced Non-Executive Director, previously holding roles as CEO of Northrop Grumman Australia; CEO of Leidos Australia; Vice President and Managing Director for Australia and Asia Pacific at Lockheed Martin; and President North East Asia of BAE Systems Australia.

A champion of workplace diversity and a passionate advocate for women in national security, Christine is Chair of Defence Trailblazer for Concept to Sovereign Capability, member of the RAA Board, member of the Port Adelaide AFLW football committee, and former Co-Chair and member of the SA Premier's Council for Women. In 2023 she was named Female Defence Executive of the Year and in 2024 she was awarded the Lifetime Award and entered into the Australian Defence Women's Hall of Fame.

Christine has a Bachelor of Economics from Flinders University, a Graduate Certificate of Management from University of South Australia, and is an alum of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and Harvard Business School.

Christine is the Chair of SBS's Board Remuneration Committee.

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