



**Media release**

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## **Allowing Leaders to Lead – from one of Australia’s leading businesswomen**

Enabling leaders to lead by example and learning not to crowd out the talent by taking control is just one of the tips one of Australia’s most respected businesswoman will be telling health leaders in October.

Diane Smith-Gander, Chairman of Transfield Services will be a keynote speaker at the ACHSM /ACHS Asia Pacific Congress to be held in Melbourne from 28-30 October, and will use the theme of leadership to connect with some of Australia’s hardest working leaders in healthcare.

“As a leader I am always looking for someone who can do something better than I can,” Ms Smith-Gander said. “Transfield is a services company and we need people to understand that the services they provide have to be delivered with distinction to make a difference.”

While the modalities of leadership vary across industries, the core aptitudes remain the same, whether it is in health or construction services. Using the leadership model of McKinsey, Ms Smith-Gander will also focus on how to employ the right people with the right skills for the organisation and will openly discuss what it is like to manage the detention centres on Nauru and Manus Island.

“This is an important conversation to have and there are probably aspects that leaders in health can understand in terms of meeting people’s needs at a humane level, while serving commercial interests.

“Whether it is in health, the private sector or a nfp agency, as a leader there is a set of challenges when you have to work together with your employees as a team to achieve goals,” she said.

Listing her own leadership inspiration as German businessman Dr Joachim Wolf “his honesty and clarity inspired me” as well as her own parents “for their openness”, Ms Smith Gander is well placed as the Chairman of a private organisation employing 19,000 staff to talk to health leaders.

“We are immensely pleased to have someone of Diane’s calibre, and professional stature talk at **Health leadership: odds-on favourite**,” said Dr Christine Dennis, CEO of ACHS.

Ms Catherine Chaffey, CEO of ACHSM said that the importance of hearing from someone who managed a large, complex and geographically-challenged leading business would not be lost on the more than 350 health leaders attending the conference.

Other speakers include:

- Prof Chris Ham CBE (CEO, King's Fund, UK),
- Prof Fiona Wood, world-leading plastic surgery pioneer,
- Dr Eric de Roodenbeke (Director General of the International Hospital Federation)
- Assoc Prof Munjed Al Muderis (Sydney osseointegration surgeon and author of *Walking Free*),
- Mr Christopher Rex (CEO of one of Australia's largest private healthcare companies, Ramsay Health).

Visit [achsm.org.au/congress](http://achsm.org.au/congress) to learn more about the Congress and register.

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