

8 May 2017

HESTA appoints Sonya Sawtell-Rickson as its new Chief Investment Officer (CIO)

Following an extensive recruitment process, Sonya Sawtell-Rickson has been appointed HESTA CIO, effective 24 July 2017, to lead the investment team at HESTA and oversee the Fund's program managing a global portfolio of assets of more than \$37 billion.

HESTA CEO Debby Blakey said Ms Sawtell-Rickson has extensive experience leading teams across a diverse range of asset classes and has held senior roles in both investment management and the superannuation industry.

"We're delighted that Sonya will lead HESTA's investment team in the exciting next chapter of its development that will involve building on our past investment success, and implementing a new five-year investment strategy," Ms Blakey said.

"Sonya brings outstanding investment experience and leadership across all aspects of portfolio management and her insights will help drive innovation and continuing excellence across the spectrum of our investment activities."

As CIO, Ms Sawtell-Rickson will have oversight over HESTA's total portfolio of investments. She will be a key contributor to HESTA's macro view of investment opportunities and will lead the internal team in asset and risk allocation and manager selection.

"HESTA members spend their careers caring for others and it's a privilege to be able to make a contribution to improving their retirement outcomes by delivering strong, sustainable, long-term investment performance," Ms Sawtell-Rickson said.

"HESTA has an impressive history of strong investment performance and innovation and I look forward to working with the HESTA team to continue to achieve the Fund's ambitious investment objectives."

Ms Sawtell-Rickson has more than 16 years' investment experience and was previously an Investment Director at Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC). She played a leading role in the Global Multi-Asset team, where she advised clients on investment strategy, and oversaw portfolio management processes and activities across a broad range of traditional and alternative asset classes for portfolios in excess of \$40 billion.

Prior to this, Ms Sawtell-Rickson was General Manager, Investment Services at QSuper.

Ms Sawtell-Rickson holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Economics and Political Science, and a Master of Applied Finance.

media
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