

Media Release: Date: 15 March 2011. For Immediate Use

MEDIA RELEASE

Joint Chairmen for FutureNow

FutureNow, the Training Council for the creative and leisure industries in WA has announced the election of Barry Felstead, CEO of Burswood Entertainment Complex and Geoff Duncan, State Director of the ABC as Joint Chairmen of its Board. Ken Norquay, General Manager Racing at Racing and Wagering WA has been elected Deputy Chairman.

John Welborn, CEO of Equatorial Resources has stepped aside after 3 years as Chairman, although he will continue as a FutureNow Board member. John's role has been pivotal, taking FutureNow into the new industry training advisory arrangements in 2009 which saw its industry coverage grow to include tourism and hospitality, information and communications technology, and printing as well as arts, media, culture, sport, recreation and racing.

FutureNow CEO, Mal Gammon said that the move is a positive step for the organisation which is responsible for workforce development planning and providing high level strategic advice to the State Government on the training need of the creative and leisure industries. Having industry leadership at this level demonstrates the importance of attracting and retaining a skilled workforce, and the commitment of both the State's largest single site private employer and the State's public broadcaster, is significant.

Barry Felstead, who was previously Deputy Chairman, is a strong advocate for the development of the creative and leisure industries whose future growth will be dependent upon attracting, retaining and developing a dynamic, committed and skilled workforce.

Geoff Duncan has seen first-hand FutureNow's ability to broker industry and training organisation partnerships which has ensured greater industry relevance and employment outcomes for screen and media students in WA. Geoff understands the need for education and training in an area where digitisation and other technological changes are requiring different skills and attracting younger talent is essential.

Messrs Felstead and Duncan are looking to build on the leadership provided by John Welborn and are committed to ensuring that the FutureNow Board and team continue to play an increasingly important role in providing clarity and leadership on workforce development and training for the creative and leisure industries.

Ends.

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Notes to Editors:

1. FutureNow-Creative and Leisure Industries Training Council Inc is the Training Council for the following sectors;
Arts and Culture – Media - Sport, recreation and racing - Tourism, hospitality and events – ICT – Telecommunications - Printing
2. FutureNow's Vision "*is to be the leader in brokering the provision of best practice education and training solutions for its industries in WA*".
3. FutureNow's mission "*is to influence and enhance the cultural, recreation, hospitality, tourism, information, media, telecommunications and printing industries' future competitiveness and productivity by ensuring businesses and people have the right skills, in the right place at the right time*".
4. FutureNow is an industry led organisations that provide high level strategic advice to the State Government and develops and actions workforce development plans for the creative and leisure industries.
5. FutureNow provides industry with the opportunity to provide leadership to meet their sectors skills and business needs.
6. For more information about FutureNow, please visit www.futurenow.org.au
7. Photos below.



**Barry Felstead,
FutureNow Joint Chairman
Chief Executive Officer,
Burswood Entertainment Complex**



**Geoff Duncan,
FutureNow Joint Chairman
State Director, ABC**

8. FutureNow Board Members- See attached

CREATIVE and LEISURE INDUSTRIES TRAINING COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS as at 15.03.11				
Hospitality and Tourism	Barry Felstead-Joint Chairman CEO- Burswood Entertainment Complex	Bradley Woods CEO- Australian Hotels Association	Warwick Lavis Restaurant and Winery Owner- Matilda Bay Restaurant and Bar	John Welborn Board member of Rugby WA and member of Tourism WA Board of Commissioners
Culture and Recreational Services	Julian Donaldson General Manager- Perth International Arts Festival	Ken Norquay-Deputy Chairman General Manager, Racing - Racing and Wagering WA	Rob Thompson CEO WA Sports Federation	
Information Media and Telecommunications	Valerie Maxville Chair- ICT Industry Collaboration Centre	Geoff Duncan-Joint Chairman State Director- ABC	Ian Smith State President WA- Printing Industries Association of Australia	
Ex Officio	Sue Lapham Executive Director, Service Delivery- WA Department of Training and Workforce Development	Simone McGurk Board Member- State Training Board and Secretary Unions WA	Mal Gammon CEO, FutureNow-Creative and Leisure Industries Training Council	