

## ASF CEO announces retirement after 10 years in role

**Friday, 13 October 2023**

Australian Sports Foundation CEO Patrick Walker announced today he will retire in April next year after nearly 10 years in the role.

Walker's announcement comes as the ASF announced it had raised a record \$79.9 million for community sport in FY23 from more than 50,000 donations to 3,061 fundraising projects across Australia.

ASF Chair Grant O'Brien thanked Walker for his outstanding contribution to the ASF and to growing philanthropy in Australian sport.

"Under Patrick's leadership, the ASF's effectiveness in raising funds for sport has grown exponentially over the past decade – from around \$17m in 2014 when he was appointed as CEO to nearly \$80M last financial year."

"His passion and dedication to raise funds for the sports sector in this country have been vital at a grassroots level as clubs and athletes face significant financial challenges."

"By unlocking funds for community sport, Patrick and his team at the ASF have helped to ensure that everyone in Australia – regardless of their background, ability or culture - has improved access to the health and social benefits of sport."

Walker joined the ASF as CEO in 2014, following a successful career as a member of the leadership team of global consulting firm, PwC.

During his leadership, the ASF has distributed over \$450 million in donations to Australian sporting organisations, clubs and athletes through its online fundraising platform and community sport grant rounds. These funds have enabled sports clubs to continue to improve the health and cohesion of their communities and embed valuable life skills in their kids, as well as providing many talented athletes with the support needed to fulfil their potential.

Walker said it had been a privilege to be CEO at ASF since 2014.

"Sport has played a central role in my life, and the life of my family. It has a unique ability to bring people together, whilst at the same time improving physical and mental health in our communities, and it has been a real privilege to work with my fantastic ASF colleagues to achieve such a positive impact for Australian sport over the last decade," he said.

This week the ASF has appointed Watermark Search International to begin an executive search for a new CEO to replace Walker in April.

Over the next six months, Walker will remain in his role and focus on his mission to create even more opportunities for Australians to donate to sport and provide better support for community sports clubs and emerging and representative athletes.

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## **About the Australian Sports Foundation**

The ASF is Australia's national non-profit sports fundraising organisation, and the only organisation in Australia to which donations for sport are tax-deductible. ASF has been helping athletes, clubs and organisations fundraise for 37 years. For more information, visit [asf.org.au/](http://asf.org.au/)

**For media inquiries, contact:** Julia Balderstone at [julia@89degreeseast.com](mailto:julia@89degreeseast.com) or 0409 570 107