



It is my pleasure to announce that the Board of Australia Post has appointed Christine Holgate as our next Managing Director and Group CEO.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Christine, she is currently the CEO of Blackmores, the natural health company that makes a range of vitamins and supplements. She was selected to be our next CEO after an exhaustive search for the best candidate to lead Australia Post through the next phase of our transformation program.

The Board chose Christine because of the combination of her people skills, her leadership style and her experience. We were particularly impressed by Christine's proven track-record as a leader who can engage and motivate a diverse team to deliver outstanding customer experiences.

### **Introducing Christine Holgate – our next MD and Group CEO**

Christine Holgate grew up in England, and she spent the early years of her career working for a number of organisations, including Allied Healthcare, the BBC, Cable & Wireless and JP Morgan.

She moved to Australia in 2002 to take up a senior executive position with Telstra, as Head of Marketing. I worked alongside Christine during this period at Telstra – and I was immediately impressed by her strategic abilities and her warm, authentic, honest leadership style.

She was promoted to lead the Business Sales and Channels team at Telstra – a really crucial role in that business because it has a big impact on overall customer service and revenue.

Over the past nine years (since late 2008), Christine has been the CEO of Blackmores, the natural health company that makes vitamins and health supplements. She has led Blackmores through a period of rapid growth – mainly through her strategic focus on growing the brand in Asia.

Under Christine's leadership, Blackmores has been a high-performing business with significant increases in the company's sales, profit, dividends and share price. She was awarded "CEO of the Year" by *CEO Magazine* in 2015, as well as being named the highest performing CEO in Australia by the *Daily Telegraph*.

Christine stood out as the best candidate to lead Australia Post, right now, because of both her leadership style and her experience.

A hallmark of her career is that she has mostly worked in highly regulated industries – and those experiences will be very beneficial as we continue to manage our community service obligations.

Christine is also a passionate advocate for Australian businesses investing in the growth markets on our doorstep in Asia, especially China. Her experience of working in our Region will be invaluable as we pursue our own Asian growth strategy, which is all about offering logistics support to Australian businesses that are either selling in Asia, or sourcing their products there.

Christine also has a genuine passion for our brand and our mission of delivering a nationwide community service. She is a firm believer that businesses must perform commercially, but also serve the community. And that approach is entirely consistent with our role as a commercial business with a set of community service standards to uphold.

On top of that, Christine has a proven track-record as a creative and innovative leader and as someone who engages effectively with all stakeholders. So we are confident that she has the ability to continue building a strong customer-centric culture, here, at Post.

### **Interim Leadership Arrangements**

Because of her existing commitments at Blackmores, Christine cannot start in the role as our next MD and Group CEO until mid to late October.

Therefore, the Board has asked Christine Corbett to be Acting Managing Director and Group CEO in the interim period between Ahmed's departure on Friday 28 July and Christine Holgate's arrival in mid to late October.

We are delighted that Christine Corbett has accepted our offer. With her knowledge of our strategy and her deep experience of our business, we know that she will do a tremendous job of steering the ship in the interim.

As we prepare to enter this transitional leadership period, I encourage everyone across our business to give their full support to Christine Corbett – and stay focussed on the job of providing outstanding customer service and experiences.

Warm regards,

**John Stanhope AM**  
**Chairman, Australia Post**