

Victorian College of the Arts

Media Alert

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Attention: Newsdesk / News editor

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VCA Director and Dean Andrea Hull to step down after 14 years' service

Director and Dean of the Faculty of the Victorian College of the Arts at the University of Melbourne, Professor Andrea Hull AO, is to retire from the position in March next year after an impressive 14 years of service, it was announced today.

Professor Hull, who has led the VCA through many changes since 1995, is leaving to pursue other interests. She will begin her transition by taking leave from mid-September to complete an MBA and represent the VCA at a number of important international events.

VCA Head of Art, Associate Professor Su Baker, will be Acting Director until a new Director and Dean is appointed.

Professor Hull said it had been an enormous privilege to lead the VCA, and she is proud of the many artistic successes of its staff, students and alumni, and the benefactors who have enabled over \$40 million to be raised during her tenure for scholarships, new programs and building projects and master artists programs.

"It has also been a joy to work with such committed, passionate and hardworking staff, who have nurtured and supported the talent that we are so fortunate to host, and who have shared in celebrating the milestones, and in responding to the challenges along the way," she said.

Vice Chancellor Professor Glyn Davis said it was with sadness the University farewelled Professor Hull, and that her enthusiasm for arts education had secured the VCA's place as one of the best performing and visual arts schools in the world.

"Andrea has been a resolute champion for the arts throughout her career, and there are few people so clearly able to articulate the important role of the arts in developing and communicating national identity and values."

Professor Davis said that Professor Hull's legacy at the VCA would be defined by her insight and commitment to collaborative, interdisciplinary art making and her awareness of Indigenous arts and artists and their central role in Australian society. She was the driving force behind the establishment of the Wilin Centre at the VCA, a model for supporting Indigenous artists and bringing Indigenous arts practices into the mainstream spotlight, along with the development of the Community Cultural Development Program, the Puppetry Program and the VCA Centre for Ideas which delivers a common curriculum to all students.

Chair of the VCA Advisory Board, Lynne Landy said "Over the past 14 years Andrea Hull has led the Victorian College of the Arts with dedication, passion and academic excellence. Her exceptional drive and leadership has brought her an outstanding reputation in the Arts community and she has spread the word of the VCA's fine reputation for arts training both nationally and around the world. Her total involvement in the College's varied programs is demonstrated by her regular attendance at performances and exhibitions. Andrea will be greatly missed by everyone involved with the greater VCA 'family' and we all wish her contentment and fulfilment in whatever task she undertakes now."

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