

**MEDIA RELEASE  
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**BRADLEY ABRAHAM FAREWELLS RIAUS AFTER EIGHT YEARS**

***Cosmos* publisher begins the search for a new CEO and Director to take the organisation forward.**

Bradley Abraham could be forgiven for feeling a little nervous as he sat in the production studio at the Science Exchange in Adelaide one September afternoon in 2015.

The then General Manager, now CEO, of The Royal Institution of Australia shared the space with the world's best-known astrophysicist, Professor Brian Cox, while more than 16,000 students waited in 400 schools across Australia to participate in an interactive, online Q&A.

And they did so! The first major public outing for Australia's Science Channel went off without a hitch, and the next phase of the organisation's development was under way.

Today the digital video-on-demand platform developed by The Royal Institution is an important part of our mission to communicate and amplify science to Australia's scientific and non-scientific community.

It is complemented by *Cosmos* (in print and online), the international science film festival *Scinema*, online educational and curriculum resources for students, and *The Ultimate Careers Guide* for students.

Bradley can look back with pride on the success and growth of this impressive portfolio of activity as he prepares to leave the organisation after eight years.

The Royal Institution of Australia was not yet two years old when he first came on board in late 2011 as General Manager to develop processes and administrative procedures and run the general operations.

After five years as General Manager years, Bradley then took over as Chief Executive in 2016, allowing him to further implement his broader vision.

"There is a lot of room for experimentation in development at the Royal Institution," he says, "and that's essential if we are to reach all of Australia, amplifying our achievements in science with high-quality relevant content.

"The organisation is very agile and passionate about its mission and the role of the CEO is about maintaining this agility and fuelling this passion.

"A great example of that agility was our ability to integrate *Cosmos* into the organisation so quickly and efficiently." A sister organisation of the two-centuries-old Royal Institution of Great Britain, The Royal Institution of Australia started out simply – providing public lectures on scientific topics from its headquarters in Adelaide.

Over the past decade, however, it has grown into one of Australia's largest multi-media science (and STEM in general) organisations. *Scinema*, for example, is now one of the largest science events in the country, with over 90,000 attendees each year.

The Royal Institution also manages the Bragg Fellowship, which acknowledges the achievements of the biggest names in Australian science.

Much of the organisation's success has been due to its ability to collaborate with a wide cross section of the community.

"We have great partnerships with governments, business and academic institutions," Bradley says.

"I have engaged with Prime Ministers and Premiers, the CEOs of major corporations that who support the institution, the VCs of Australia's universities, which are generous with their support.

"Without ongoing commercial robustness and profitability in our operations, we stall".

Founding Royal Institution of Australia Chairman Peter Yates says Bradley has laid the platform for his successor to drive even greater scale, commercial support and activity around the organisation's products to better service the scientific message of institutions, the awareness of science in the community and strengthen public engagement with the scientific community.

"Bradley and team have done a great job in laying the basis for this growth. There is enormous scope for the new CEO to bring his or her ideas and energy into growing the organisation and making it commercially sustainable," he says.

"To do this for science communication in Australia would be a fine achievement for any executive with the passion to make this happen. Just imagine being able to claim the development of *National Geographic* in the United States as an achievement. That opportunity exists with the Royal Institution here in Australia."

Importantly, Peter adds, the new CEO will have the support of the Board to inject his or her ideas and creativity into the organisation.

"We back grand ideas. As a board we aspire to allow our CEO to take their ideas and turn them into a vision and back this vision into concrete achievement.

"Our board are experienced. They are leaders in their fields. What we are after is the right person who has great ideas and the drive to make these ideas real. We need a leader who wants to deliver real tangible achievements and we will back them".



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