

Media Release

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COSBOA Appoints Luke Achterstraat as new CEO

The Council of Small Business Organisations Australia (COSBOA) has today announced the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer, **Luke Achterstraat**.

Luke Achterstraat brings to COSBOA a wealth of experience in various leadership capacities within membership organisations, small business management, advocacy, and policy development. Luke has previously served as the NSW Executive Director of the Property Council of Australia, held the position of Chair of the Expert Housing Advisory Panel for the NSW Government and has worked in a series of senior advisory roles in the Federal Government, including for the ministers for trade, investment, tourism and international education.



The Board was impressed by Luke's commitment to ensuring small businesses in Australia are not left behind, and his passion to work with small business owners, industry associations and government to address critical challenges such as skills gaps, supply chain bottlenecks, reducing regulatory burdens and the threat of cyber crime.

Matthew Addison, Chair of COSBOA, said the rigorous recruitment process has resulted in a new CEO who will steer the organisation through a challenging period for Australian small businesses.

"Luke will bring fresh perspectives and ideas to the table, which will benefit our members, partners, and industry stakeholders, as well as help to achieve COSBOA's goals. We are excited to have him onboard and believe that he will be a valuable addition to lead our team," said Addison.

In reflecting on his new role as CEO of COSBOA, Achterstraat said he will leverage his significant professional experience and his personal history with small business in Australia.

"Starting my career with a federal employer group and then in Federal Government has given me hands-on experience in understanding policy development and working with a broad scope of stakeholders. More recently, running a state division of a large industry body has allowed me to work closely with a member community to represent and deliver to their concerns. I will bring all this experience to COSBOA.

"From a personal perspective, my grandparents came to Australia in the 1950s and started their own small business to create a livelihood for our family; I know first-hand the joys and challenges of running a small business.

“I see the opportunity to lead COSBOA as an honour and responsibility. The combined small businesses represented by COSBOA’s members have the potential to be a key part of the solution to drive growth, productivity and prosperity for the Australian economy. I aspire to make sure small business is front and centre of every policy discussion at a time when they have never been more important,” said Achterstraat.

Luke Achterstraat commences on 30 May 2023, with his initial priority to connect with members of COSBOA to understand their sectors, priorities and needs on behalf of small business.

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Media Contact

Further information, images and interviews are available upon request from:

Matthew Addison, Chair, chair@cosboa.org.au.

Notes to Editors:

About COSBOA

COSBOA was founded in 1977 and was incorporated in 1979 as a public company limited by guarantee. COSBOA has a proud history of strong advocacy on small business issues ranging from taxation and workplace relations, through to competition law and retail tenancy.

COSBOA was created by people who believed that small business needed a voice that was not also representing big business – as a result, the Council of Small Business Organisations Australia is now the country’s peak body exclusively representing the interests of small businesses.

For more information on COSBOA visit cosboa.org.au or connect through social media channels: Facebook: [@COSBOA](https://www.facebook.com/COSBOA), Twitter: [@COSBOA](https://twitter.com/COSBOA) or LinkedIn: [@COSBOA](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cosboa)

About Luke Achterstraat

Luke Achterstraat has over a decade of experience in policy, advocacy and government. He has advised two federal government ministers and appeared before parliamentary inquiries on behalf of both federal and state industry groups. Most recently he was the NSW Executive Director of the Property Council of Australia and was also appointed by the NSW Government as the inaugural Chair of the NSW Expert Housing Advisory Panel. Luke is passionate about small business, having helped co-found and lead the talent disruption business Commtract. His grandfather emigrated to Australia from the Netherlands in 1951 and started a small business, a legacy that helps inform Luke on the vital role small businesses play in building livelihoods and communities across Australia.