

***IRT WELCOMES HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST***

IRT has welcomed the appointment of human resources specialist Leanne Taylor to its executive team in the position of General Manager –People & Culture, based in their Wollongong Corporate Services.

Ms Taylor took up her IRT appointment last week after almost two years as General Manager Corporate Services and Company Secretary for the Port Kembla Port Corporation.

Her other previous employment include roles with the Southern Councils Group and the Department of Lands and a previous management role in the aged care sector.

IRT Chief Executive Nieves Murray said the company was very fortunate to secure Ms Taylor's services as she brings such a range of experiences to the IRT role which will encompass human resources, payroll, industrial relations, OHS and learning & development.

"The aged care sector is going through a lot of change partly driven by our stakeholders and partly driven by the Federal Government's desire for reform to meet the emerging needs of ageing Australians; Leanne is well placed to assist IRT in meeting these challenges," Ms Murray said.

"Leanne has already worked as a change agent in both government and non-government roles, helping large organisations address the complexity of issues that come with the evolution and growth of a business across a spectrum of needs," Ms Murray said.

"This will be invaluable to IRT as we work together to continue to create communities where older people achieve their optimum quality of life, either within seniors living communities or through in-home care.

"At present we rely on the dedication of about 1800 staff members to provide care for about 5000 seniors in NSW and the ACT and the requirements in providing service and care will only be greater as our ageing population grows.

"We welcome Leanne and look forward to utilising her expertise in leading our team of talented human resources and learning & development staff to meet these ongoing challenges."

Ms Taylor said she was excited about her IRT appointment to the People & Culture role, which marks a return to the aged care sector and to a people-centric role, nourishing her passion.

"I've always wanted to make a difference to the lives of people and feel my diverse experiences now will only benefit this sector and IRT," she said.

"I feel like I have come home again."

**Ends**

**Note to Editors:** We request you refer to IRT as “IRT” not “Illawarra Retirement Trust” – thank you.

**For further information please contact:**

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**About IRT:**

IRT is Australia’s largest not-for-profit, community based aged care and retirement living provider\*. It has been providing care, services and accommodation to older Australians for 40 years. IRT manages villages more than 30 locations across the Illawarra, South Coast of NSW, Sydney and Canberra. It serves the needs of more than 5000 residents and clients.

(\*BRW Nov 2008)