

June 7, 2013

Insurance Council appoints Richard Shields as General Manager Government and Stakeholder Relations

The Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) today announced the appointment of Richard Shields as General Manager Government and Stakeholder Relations, effective June 17, 2013. He will be responsible for managing key stakeholder relationships and engaging with all levels of government.

Mr Shields has two decades of experience in public affairs-related roles. He was most recently the external relations manager of an ASX-listed company.

ICA Chief Executive Rob Whelan said Mr Shields brought an insider's knowledge of the challenges and complexities of politics to the ICA. He said Mr Shields would also complement the organisation's knowledge of the legislative and regulatory processes of government.

"Richard joins the ICA at a critical time. We have a Federal election looming, plus many issues and challenges on the legislative front at federal and state level. His skills and strong political networks with the main political parties will immediately prove valuable," Mr Whelan said.

ICA President Mark Milliner said: "I welcome Richard to the close-knit ICA executive team. Forging strong and collaborative relationships with all sides of politics and with the senior ranks of member companies is at the heart of this role, and Richard's political, business and communications acumen made him the ideal candidate."

Mr Shields said: "The insurance industry plays such a critical role in the effective functioning of any economy, and I am excited by the opportunity to further reinforce this fact to key decision makers."

Mr Shields has a BA (UNSW) and an MBA (AGSM). He has previously worked as an adviser to the Minister for Sport and Tourism Hon Andrew Thomson MP and for Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Senator the Hon Helen Coonan; public affairs director for the Australian Hotels Association (WA); deputy state director and director of party affairs for the Liberal Party (NSW); and most recently external relations manager for listed gas explorer Metgasco Ltd.

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