



Appointment of new Chief Executive Officer

Following an extensive selection process, I am delighted to announce the appointment of **Giancarlo de Vera** to the position of Chief Executive Officer of BEING – Mental Health Consumers, effective from **Monday, 9 December 2024**.

Giancarlo brings over 15 years of leadership experience across the community services, government, and not-for-profit sectors, both within Australia and internationally. For the past 5 years, Giancarlo has worked at People with Disability Australia, most recently as Senior Manager of Policy. Giancarlo's career has been marked by strong commitment to advocacy, equality, and systemic change, particularly in the realms of mental health and disability.

As a proud LGBTIQ+ and non-binary human rights advocate from a culturally and racially marginalised background, and with lived experience of psychosocial disability, Giancarlo embodies BEING's mission of representing the voice of the diverse range of NSW mental health consumers.

Giancarlo is a well-respected and recognised systemic advocate, having been named as one of Australia's 40 under 40 most influential Asian Australians, as one of Pro Bono Australia's *Impact 25* most influential Australians in the social services sector, and as an Australian Government Ambassador for International Day of People with Disability.

Giancarlo holds a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degree (UNSW), supplemented with extensive experience in the health, social services and welfare sectors in both Board and Executive capacities.

Giancarlo's appointment follows the decision by our former CEO, Priscilla Brice, to take on the inaugural role of CEO for the new National Mental Health Consumer Alliance.

Please join me in both welcoming and assisting with Giancarlo's induction into BEING. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Russell Barratt for fulfilling the role of Acting CEO. Russell will be joining the BEING Board and will resume the role of Chair of our Audit & Risk Committee once the transition across to Giancarlo is completed.

Welcome Giancarlo!

Tim Heffernan

Chair