

## ARAG appoints Natasha Gale as CEO in Australia

Düsseldorf/Sydney, 6 July 2021 – Natasha Gale becomes the new Chief Executive Officer of ARAG Services Australia, effective 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2021. The Sydney-based enterprise is a wholly owned subsidiary of the German ARAG Group, a global leader in legal expenses insurance for 85 years and currently active in 19 countries – including the USA and Canada.

Natasha Gale commenced her work at the Australian office as General Manager 12 months ago, and served as a Director for the last 6 months. Prior to joining ARAG she gained more than 20 years of experience in finance, insurance as well as being a specialist in transformational change. Current CEO Antoinette von Wendt will move into the role of Chief Operating Officer.

"Natasha has done an excellent job in the last 12 months and I am excited to have her lead our Australian team," comments Renko Dirksen, Speaker of the Management Board of ARAG SE. "We pursue a long-term strategy for our international entities where we believe in setting up local leadership teams in each country. Launching in Australia in 2019, under the stewardship of Antoinette, the business has now established itself to the point where we are scaled up to appoint an Australian CEO", he adds.

ARAG Services Australia operates as Managing General Agent (MGA) offering innovative legal expense insurance products targeting insurance brokers and other intermediaries. The product range comprises both commercial and private legal expense insurance products underwritten by HDI Global Specialty SE - Australia.

"I'm excited for the challenge of growing a relatively unknown product in Australia which makes the local growth potential for us huge. I look forward to continuing our work with our broker partners and local stakeholders. These relationships, along with the continued commitment to this market by head office in Germany and the hiring of strong talent into the team, will be key to driving our local growth", states Natasha Gale.

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ARAG is the largest family-owned enterprise in the German insurance industry and has positioned itself as a versatile quality insurer. Besides legal insurance, it offers its customers in Germany its unique needs-based products and services covering casualty and property insurance and health insurance. Active in 19 countries – including the US, Canada and Australia – ARAG is also represented by international branches, subsidiaries and shareholdings in numerous international markets in which it holds a leading position as a provider of legal insurance and legal services. With more than 4,400 employees, the Group generates revenue and premium income totaling around 1.9 billion EUR.