Deloitte appoints former McKinsey partner to its board

Edmund Tadros *Professional services editor*

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Deloitte Australia has appointed Professor Rufus Black, the vice chancellor and president of the University of Tasmania, and investor Kee Wong as the inaugural independent directors on its 10-member board.

The appointments, for three-year terms, follow other big four consulting firms adding external directors following the PwC tax leaks scandal [https://www.afr.com/companies/professional-services/inside-the-undoing-of-pwc-20240805-p5jzkm].

Professor Rufus Black (left), the vice chancellor and president of the University of Tasmania, and investor Kee Wong have been appointed to the Deloitte Australia board.

Their expertise across "governance, technology, regulation, innovation, strategy and risk" will help guide Deloitte's leadership, said the firm's chairman John Greig.

"Having independent board members is a forward-looking step that will enhance our governance by bringing external perspectives, broader experience and greater diversity of thought to the board," Greig said.

The appointments follow an update to the firm's partnership agreement to allow for independent directors.
Other members of the board include the seven elected partner members – Greig, deputy chairwoman Fiona Craig, Frances Borg, David Boyd, Judith Donovan, Nicki Ivory and John Leotta – as well as chief executive Joanne Gorton.

The addition of Black and Kee to the board means the group will achieve a 50-50 gender balance, in line with the firm's commitment to a gender balance of at least 40 per cent women.

Black, a former McKinsey partner, has been the head of the University of Tasmania since March 2018. He was also previously a non-executive director on the board of law firm Corrs Chambers Westgarth. He will take up the Deloitte board role from September 1.

Wong, who will take up the Deloitte role from January 1, has almost four decades of experience across a range of senior executive and director roles.

He is also a non-executive director at automotive classifieds business Car Group, the Australian Energy Market Operator, investment fund Australian Business Growth Fund, the Australian arm of IT consulting firm Nomura Research Institute and the Walter Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

PwC is the most advanced of the big four accounting firms in appointing independent directors. [https://www.afr.com/link/follow-20180101-p5jyay]

The firm has an independent chairman and three independent directors [https://www.afr.com/companies/professional-services/ex-macquarie-exec-named-pwc-australia-s-first-independent-chairman-20240801-p5jyay] on its 10-strong board, while KPMG has three independent directors [https://www.afr.com/link/follow-20180101-p5ezmr] on its 12-member board. EY does not have a local board.

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Edmund Tadros leads our coverage of the professional services sector. He is based in our Sydney newsroom. *Email Edmund at edmundtadros@afr.com.au*