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📷 Departing Guide Dogs SA/NT chief executive Kate Thiele.

— SA Business —

## Local Guide Dogs boss to say farewell after seven successful years at the helm

Belinda Willis, The Advertiser  
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MULTI-AWARD winning Guide Dogs boss Kate Thiele is leaving the organisation she has helped grow from 450 regular donors annually to more than 21,000.

In her seven years as the organisation's chief executive for SA and NT, [Ms Thiele was named Telstra SA Business Woman of the Year in 2015](#) and oversaw plans for [the state's first five-star pet hotel](#) — set to open at Adelaide Airport next year.

Ms Thiele will take a “long overdue family holiday early in the New Year” and explore professional development options that had been on hold.

A recruitment process to replace her will commence soon.

“Leaving is never an easy decision to make, especially when it has been an absolute joy working with the board, leadership team, staff and volunteers of Guide Dogs SA/NT, but the time has come for me to move on to my next challenge,” Ms Thiele said.

Ms Thiele was the first South Australian to be awarded a fully funded Harvard Business School Fellowship in Boston to undertake the strategic perspectives in non-profit management program.

She remains a non-executive director of both the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust and a board member of the Royal Zoological Society of SA.

“Under Kate’s leadership we have seen Guide Dogs SA/NT go from strength to strength and her efforts have tripled turnover in our giving program,” organisation chairman Joe Thorp said.

“As an ambassador, she has helped strengthen awareness of the support programs we offer and highlighted the many life-changing outcomes achieved by our dedicated team of staff and volunteers.”