

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Immediate release**

#### **AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS APPOINT NEW CEO JO THOMAS TO LEAD NEXT STAGE OF GROWTH**

This month, **Australian Institute of Business (AIB)** has appointed **Jo Thomas** to the position of **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.

Far from a new addition to the AIB family, Jo has served as AIB's Chief Operating Officer (COO) for 2.5 years, leading the business school's operations functions across Marketing, Sales, Retention, Human Resources and Technology.

Jo's executive career to date has been largely focused on driving sustainable business growth for major Australian companies; this experience makes her the ideal person to lead AIB's next stage of accelerated growth.

Under Jo's steer, AIB will look to strengthen its position as a leader in interactive online business education for professionals, delivered nationally and internationally.

Daren McKennay, AIB Chairman and Partner at Crescent Capital comments, "Building on her knowledge of AIB and strong foundation as COO, the Board and I are confident that Jo will be an outstanding CEO for AIB, providing guidance and leadership needed for the next stage of growth and development of the business."

Australian Institute of Business' board of directors include the founding Abraham family and private equity firm Crescent Capital Partners. In the traditionally male-dominated world of Chief Executives, Jo will be the first woman appointed to Chief Executive in AIB's 36-year history.

Jo succeeds outgoing CEO Paul Wappett who led AIB through a significant period of transformational change over his tenure, including securing AIB's reaccreditation and registration for the maximum 7-year term.

Reflecting on the transition to CEO, Jo shares, "I am honoured to have this exciting opportunity to build on Paul's incredible legacy at AIB, as well as that of the leaders before him.

"AIB is a really special place to work and a privilege to now lead, backed by our unique vision to make education more accessible.

"I am looking forward to working closely with our Board, our student community and our amazing team to accelerate AIB into the future."

The foundations are now well and truly set for Jo and the executive team to take AIB into its exciting next phase, while continuing to provide value for money practical business education and excellent student experiences.

[aib.edu.au](http://aib.edu.au) | [@AIBeducation](https://www.instagram.com/AIBeducation) | [@AustralianInstituteofBusiness](https://www.facebook.com/AustralianInstituteofBusiness)

#### **PR Contact**

Toni Cavallaro

Marketing Manager | Australian Institute of Business | P: +61 (0) 431 963 641 | E: [toni.cavallaro@aib.edu.au](mailto:toni.cavallaro@aib.edu.au)

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Immediate release**

### **NOTES TO THE EDITOR**

**About Australian Institute of Business:** *Australian Institute of Business is a global higher education institution and Australia's largest online MBA provider. Delivered entirely online and designed to fit around the lives of busy working people, Australian Institute of Business' postgraduate business degrees are fully accredited in Australia, internationally recognised and industry-aligned. Australian Institute of Business has a history of over 30 years of excellence, and a network of more than 16,000 students and graduates across 90 countries.*

**Crescent Capital Partners:** *Crescent is a leading Australian private equity firm. Through their deep inhouse expertise assisting emerging and growth companies across Australia and New Zealand since 2000, they have raised over \$3bn across six funds and completed more than 45 foundation investments and assisted our portfolio companies with over 150 follow-on acquisitions.*

**About Jo Thomas:** *With well over 15 years' experience in senior roles for some of Australia's most iconic companies Jo understands what drives rapid and sustainable growth - flawless execution, authentic leadership and innovation.*

### **PR Contact**

Toni Cavallaro

Marketing Manager | Australian Institute of Business | P: +61 (0) 431 963 641 | E: [toni.cavallaro@aib.edu.au](mailto:toni.cavallaro@aib.edu.au)