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Media Release

AIA Australia appoints Ben Walsh as Chief Life Insurance Officer

Melbourne, 23 March 2020 – AIA Australia has today announced the appointment of senior industry executive, Ben Walsh in the newly created role of Chief Life Insurance Officer, effective 1 June 2020.

In the new role, Mr Walsh, who is currently Mercer’s Managing Director and CEO of Australia and New Zealand, will drive the direction of the life insurance arm of the business, which includes CommInsure Life.

As Chief Life Insurance Officer, Mr Walsh will be responsible for delivering market-leading life insurance propositions across a diverse range of channels, in order to best meet consumer need.

Mr Walsh will join the Executive Team and report to Chief Executive and Managing Director of AIA Australia and New Zealand, Damien Mu.

Commenting on the new appointment, **Damien Mu said**; “We’re thrilled to have secured such a high-calibre leader in Ben, who joins the AIA family with decades of experience and a shared passion for purpose and Making a Difference in peoples’ lives.

“We have a unique customer value proposition of Life, Health and Wellbeing and each of those pillars is fundamental to our shared value model. In heading up the Life pillar of the business, Ben will play a key role in helping us realise our vision of making Australia and New Zealand the healthiest and best protected nations in the world.

“As the business continues to grow, Ben’s leadership and expertise will allow us to deliver greater value in life insurance, further strengthening our leadership by identifying and investing in innovative ways to meet evolving customer needs and expectations.”

Mr Walsh said: “I have admired AIA and its people since prior to its listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, and over the years have been fortunate enough to visit its operations and leadership in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore and Australia. As the largest global life insurer in the world, AIA is extremely well placed to deliver its vision and in this new role, I look forward to helping the business and team, along with clients and partners, make Australia one of the healthiest and best protected nations in the world.”

Mr Walsh is an experienced industry executive, having worked for Mercer and its sister company Marsh for more than 25 years, most recently as Managing Director and CEO of Australia and New Zealand where he was responsible for delivering the firm’s business segments of Health, Wealth and Career.

He was also Chief Country Officer of Mercer’s parent, the global professional services firm Marsh & McLennan Companies (MMC) and Director of five Mercer Boards across Australia and New Zealand, including the Trustee of the AU\$25 billion in funds under management Mercer Master Trust.

Mr Walsh was appointed to the Faculty of Business & Economics Advisory Board with The University of Melbourne in October 2015 and the Board of the Financial Services Council in 2018.

He holds a Bachelor of Commerce with Honors from the University of Melbourne, and a Master of Business Administration from the Melbourne Business School.

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About AIA Australia

AIA Australia is a leading life insurance specialist with over 47 years' experience. With a unique customer value proposition focused on life, health and wellbeing, our purpose is to make a difference in people's lives.

In November 2019, AIA Group commenced its Joint Cooperation Agreement (JCA) with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) to purchase its life insurance business (known as CommInsure Life).

Together, AIA Australia and CommInsure Life offer a range of products that protect and enhance the lives of more than 3.8 million Australians. Our vision is to embrace shared value in championing Australia and New Zealand to be the healthiest and most protected nations in the world. With AIA Vitality – the world's leading science- based health and wellbeing program – we help members to live healthier, longer, better lives.

AIA Australia has been recognised with multiple awards, including the Women in Finance Employer of the Year Award (2018, 2019), Super Review's Best Insurer of the Year (2018, 2019), and iSelect Partner Awards Insurer of the Year (2019).

Further information at www.aia.com.au.

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