

**27 January 2022**

## **Leadership changes for Funeral Directors Association**

A new President and Chief Executive have begun their roles at the Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand.

### **Rachel Benns – President**



Rachel was the previous Vice President and has over 25 years' experience in the funeral industry. Rachel qualified in 2003, owned her own funeral home - Resthaven Funerals, and now supports 11 Funeral homes across Auckland in the role of Regional Manager.

“The last two years have seen significant changes for the funeral industry with the introduction of technologies and improved standards to ensure our members can continue to provide meaningful farewells for families even in the Covid world,” said Ms Benns.

Rachel is the first woman to take on the President role.

### **Gillian Boyes – Chief Executive**



Gillian joins the industry following a career including financial services, Government and communication consultancy roles. Most recently she led investor capability efforts at the financial services regulator, the Financial Markets Authority.

“The Funeral Directors Association aligns closely with my values of the need for empathy and support of all New Zealanders. I look forward to helping the members navigate through the ongoing Covid changes and upcoming regulatory reform,” said Ms Boyes.

ENDS

**For further information contact:**

Rachel Benns, Funeral Directors Association President on 021 407 407

Gillian Boyes, Funeral Directors Association CEO on 029 200 8985

Photos of Ms Benns and Ms Boyes are attached.



The Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand represents funeral directing companies that undertake the majority of funerals in New Zealand. They are a group of caring professionals who are committed to ensuring that the families they serve receive high-quality funeral service. For more information, visit our website: [www.funeraldirectors.co.nz](http://www.funeraldirectors.co.nz)