



**IRISH AUSTRALIAN**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

**Media Release**

**Irish Australian Chamber of Commerce officially launches Irish Chapter**

The Irish Australian Chamber of Commerce will officially launch its Irish Chapter in Dublin on 1<sup>st</sup> June with a reception in the company of Chapter Patron, Dr. Ruth Adler, the Australian Ambassador to Ireland and over 150 senior business figures from a range of sectors.

Foundation Members for the new Chapter are Bank of Ireland, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, CPL, Currency Fair, Eisner Amper, Ernst & Young, Etihad Airways, Flight Centre, Fintech Ireland & Pepper Ireland.

The Chapter will be led by Peter Oakes and Vincent Crowley, both experienced senior executives with experience gained in both Australia and Ireland over many years.

Commenting on the launch, IACC President Rob Clifford, who has travelled from Australia for the launch event, said “In this 70th year of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Australia, we look forward to the possibilities that the activities of this new Chapter represents. We welcome the growing interest from Irish companies looking at Australia as their preferred base in the Asia Pacific region. Additionally, through our charter membership of the European Australia Business Council, we support the goal of an Australia / EU FTA which we believe will encourage even more Australian businesses to consider Ireland, both as a destination market in its own right, and as a gateway to Europe.”

Chapter Patron, Dr. Ruth Adler welcomed the foundation of the Chapter saying “As Australia’s Ambassador to Ireland, I am delighted to be Patron of the Irish Chapter of the Irish Australian Chamber of Commerce. The Australian Embassy has a productive relationship with the Australian business community in Ireland through its economic diplomacy agenda and welcomes the establishment of the Irish Chapter of the Irish Australian Chamber of Commerce. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ireland on its strong economic performance in 2015. This was reflected in the growth of two-way trade and investment between our countries which is now worth almost Euro 19 Billion. The process has commenced for the establishment of a comprehensive and high-quality Australia-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA). It is hoped that the scope and level of ambition of the FTA will strengthen further the Australia-Ireland bilateral relationship.”

Peter Oakes, a former Director of the Central Bank of Ireland and founder of Fintech Ireland will chair the Chapter in Ireland and added “The launch of the Chapter sees a tremendous opportunity for effective engagement on a number of topics which are of shared interest and of fundamental importance to the continuing economic growth of both countries, including Innovation, Technology, Infrastructure and the Australia / EU Free Trade Agreement to name but a few. Our activities will provide meaningful and far-reaching support to the growing Australian business community in Ireland, the ability to provide quality insights to Irish businesses considering Australian activities and to build business and professional ties across generations and geographies. It’s an exciting time and I’m very proud to play my part in it. My sincere thanks to the Chamber for driving this excellent initiative.”

- Ends



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**About the Irish Australian Chamber of Commerce (IACC)**

The Irish Australian Chamber of Commerce is the premier Irish Australian business organisation. We are a modern, vibrant and inclusive membership based organisation that is committed to adding value and bringing opportunities to our members, drawn from a broad range of industry sectors and demographics across Australia and Ireland.

Our group is valued as the most suitable way to engage with Irish Australian professionals and those who do business with them.

Our activities & services include:

- Irish Australian Business Awards
- Business Mentoring Program
- Returning Migrants Program, the first of its kind within the Diaspora
- “Chamber Connect”. Technology Consulting, Research, Event Management, HR, Training and Trade Services
- Thought Leadership via White Papers
- “Horizons” (advanced, facilitated professional development program)
- Facilitating transactions supporting bilateral and inter-regional trade
- Supporting a number of existing partnerships with new Irish Australian businesses.

**Irish Australian trade facts:**

- Australian merchandise exports to Ireland were valued at \$55 million and imports from Ireland were valued at \$1.82 billion in 2014-15.
- Australia’s trade in services with Ireland was valued at over \$1.5 billion in 2014-15.
- In 2014, Ireland’s total investment in Australia was valued at \$16.28 billion, while Australia’s investment in Ireland was valued at \$8.83 billion.
- Dozens of Australian companies are now active in Ireland across many sectors.
- Enterprise Ireland are currently supporting over 150 Irish client companies from their Sydney office

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