Biography of Mr. Jim McDowell

Mr Jim McDowell commenced as Chancellor of the University of South Australia on 1 January 2016.

Born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Jim completed a law degree with honours at the University of Warwick (England) in 1977. He worked in legal, commercial and marketing roles with aerospace company Bombardier Shorts for the next 18 years.

Jim joined British Aerospace in Singapore in August 1996. In 1999, he was appointed Regional Managing Director of BAE Systems for Asia, following the merger of British Aerospace and Marconi Electronic Systems and based in Hong Kong. Upon taking over at BAE Systems Australia, Jim established the company's headquarters in Adelaide, South Australia where he lives.

Jim was Chief Executive Officer of BAE Systems Saudi Arabia a $6 billion company from September 2011 to December 2013.

He has in-depth experience in corporate governance having served, mainly as Chair on a range of boards including the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, Air Warfare Destroyer Principals Council, Total Construction Pty Ltd and Australian Defence Accelerator Ltd. He is a non-executive director of both Codan Ltd and Austal Ltd and a Board Member of the Royal Automobile Association (RAA), Adelaide Football Club, The Australian Strategic Policy Institute Council and St Peter's College Council of Governors.

Jim acts in a number of advisory roles to the Minister and the Department of Defence as a member of the First Principles Review of the Department and the Expert Advisory Panel for the Future Submarine Project.