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Savills Launches Social Infrastructure Valuation & Advisory Division with Senior Hires

Leading agency Savills Australia and New Zealand has launched a Social Infrastructure division amid accelerating demand for alternative real estate assets. The newly formed team is spearheaded by Kate Robinson, National Director. Savills has also snapped up high-profile ex-Deloitte specialists with Laila Burnet and Alex Buchmann bringing unrivalled experience in complex social-infrastructure asset classes.

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Forming part of Savills' Valuation & Advisory offering, the new Social Infrastructure division is set to cater to the groundswell of investor demand across Australia's rapidly emerging healthcare, education, seniors living and disability-accommodation sectors.

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This shift is strongly supported by wider industry sentiment. ANREV's 2026 Investment Intentions Survey identifies healthcare and senior housing as one of the fastest-rising investor preferences in Asia-Pacific, surging from 22% in 2025 to 43% in 2026.

The rise of the sector reflects not only investor appetite but also its growing economic weight. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, healthcare and education now account for nearly 14% of Australia's total economic output, up from 12.6% a decade ago, underscoring the increasing importance of the social-services ecosystem to the national economy.

The expanded service capability will support clients across Childcare, Healthcare, Land Lease, Retirement, Aged Care, Life Science & Education, Specialist Disability Accommodation and Self Storage, positioning Savills strongly to address the sector's evolving trends and the growing needs of investors, operators and developers.

Joe Phegan, National Head of Valuation & Advisory at Savills Australia and New Zealand, said, "Social infrastructure has become a critical component of institutional portfolios, underpinned by demographic demand and long-term income resilience. Australia's population, currently 27.6 million, is forecast to approach 31.5 million by 2035–36, and real health expenditure is projected to more than double over the next four decades, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. These long-term structural drivers reinforce the need for specialist advisory capability.

"Establishing a dedicated national division enables Savills to deepen our expertise and better support clients operating in these highly specialised sectors. With Kate, Laila and Alex leading the platform, we are exceptionally well-positioned for sustained long-term growth." He added.

Recently promoted to National Director, Kate Robinson joined Savills in 2019 and is a leader in childcare, healthcare and alternatives valuations. She will oversee the division's national framework, ensuring a unified, market-leading advisory platform across regulated and operationally complex sectors.

Laila Burnet joins Savills as Head of Aged Care and Retirement Living, with over 20 years' specialist experience spanning aged care, retirement living, land-lease communities, large-format medical centres and SDA. She has advised on some of Australia's most significant and operationally intensive assets, positioning her as a key pillar in Savills' new national capability. She will lead strategic advisory for the division with a focus on aged care and retirement living assets.

Press Release

Alex Buchmann joins as Director in Victoria and brings deep expertise across healthcare, retirement living and specialist disability accommodation valuations. Having advised institutional owners, operators and financiers on large-scale developments and specialised facilities, Alex supports decision-makers in maximising long-term performance and driving sustainable growth across property markets.

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Savills' broader Social Infrastructure team also includes Michael Duque, Pat Ahern, Max Gray and Jonathan Vlamis.

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About Savills
For over 170 years, Savills has been helping people thrive through place and spaces.

Listed on the London Stock Exchange, we have more than 42,000 professionals collaborating across over 70 countries, delivering unrivalled coverage and expertise to the world of commercial and prime residential real estate.

By applying world research data and trends to local and global settings, we're able to empower our clients with insights from the forefront of the industry – bringing their aspirations to life through innovative, tailor-made solutions.

Whether we are working with a global corporate looking to expand, an investor seeking to sustainably optimise their portfolio, or a family trying to find a new home, we help our clients make better property decisions.

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