

King eschews banking for children's charity

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AFTER a 25 year career in banking — 15 of them as a National Australia Bank executive — Glenn King has become the latest high-flying executive to eschew a hefty pay packet in favour of a philanthropic career.

Mr King, NAB's head of small business, left the bank yesterday to take up a new role tomorrow as an executive director of Save the Children Australia.

Mr King, 47, said he had always pondered a philanthropic sea change, but didn't want to defer the move until retirement.

"Often people do it at the end of their career, but I wanted to do it at an active part of my career," he said. "I hope I'm a role model for other people."

A father of two young children, Mr King has had executive roles in England, Scotland, Ireland and New Zealand. Before his small business role, he ran NAB's shared services arm and was earlier director of the bank's Yorkshire Bank arm.

Mr King said his banking experience was directly relevant to his new role, in which he becomes responsible for the charity's fundraising, retail outlets and broader development.

Profiler Recruitment director Lynne Payne, who introduced Mr King to Save the Children Australia chief executive Suzanne Dvorak, said she expected the trend to intensify as not-for-profits latched on to the potential of executives seeking a change of direction.

"Some sectors of the business community may see this as a courageous move by both Glenn and Save the Children, but I see it as a wonderful opportunity to drive an organisation forward," Ms Payne said.

Helen Conway recently resigned as Caltex company secretary and reportedly took a pay cut to become director of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency.

With revenue of \$60 million last year, Save The Children Australia operates poverty alleviation programs in eight countries.