

Thoughtpost Governance Director Excellence Resources

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DIRECTOR EXCELLENCE RESOURCES

There is a tendency for directors, many who have an impressive life’s work behind them, to pass lightly over the idea of further development or to consider safe, known activities. However, “the wisest mind has something yet to learn”¹. Thoughtpost Governance is committed to assisting directors to excel. Whether you have just completed a board review, recently joined a board, taken up your first director or chairing role or contemplating your next director career move, take some time to think deeply about what it would take to excel in the role.

The following guide provides ideas on areas of general directorship development. The guide is by no means comprehensive nor does it cover sector specific topics, but seeks to highlight a range of stimulating development activities. Thoughtpost Governance has not substantiated the quality of activities listed. Your feedback on other activities you have found useful would be greatly appreciated. Please email us at info@thoughtpost.com.au.

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¹ George Santayana

THINK

<i>Description</i>		<i>Provider</i>	<i>Link</i>
NACD blog	Leading edge international thinking across the breadth of director practice	NACD	http://blog.nacdonline.org
Thoughtpost Governance blog	Thoughtful perspectives on directorship	Thoughtpost Governance	http://www.thoughtpost.com.au/blog/
Governex Online Thinking	An online, practice based thinking and resources.	GGI	https://ggi.community/governex/
On Directorship blog	Alternate perspective to classical thinking	Peter Tunjic	http://ondirectorship.com
Russell Yardley on technology	Blogs and video casts on key strategic technology issues topics for directors	Russell Yardley	https://au.linkedin.com/in/russellyardley
Board Works periodical	Bi-monthly thoughtful and practical articles on director practice	Board Works International	https://boardworksinternational.com/periodical.php
Corporate Governance Institute articles	A focus on governance and corporate social responsibility (Netherlands)	Corporate Gov Institute	http://corgovinstitute.com Twitter: @CorGovInstitute
Ethical Boardroom articles & magazine	Critical analysis on international corporate governance issues	Ethical Boardroom	http://ethicalboardroom.com

LEARN

Description		Provider	Link
Own organisation & sector:			
Industry / sector briefings			
Specialists directors	Meet with specialists on your board to understand their perspective on specialist topics; use specific examples.		
Site visits	In addition to scheduled site visits: meet one-on-one or in pairs with individual staff or small groups; visit competitor/customer/supplier sites		
Conference attendance	As relevant to sector		
Industry updates	Ask management for the industry mailing lists to follow Use Google Alerts to track company, competitor and sector news		
Foundations:			
Governex online training	Engaging, highly practical online self-paced learning for directors and governance professionals. ²	GGI	https://ggi.community/governex/
Company Directors Course (CDC)	Australian industry standard; 5 day intensive with optional assessment; strong networking	AICD	http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au
CDC Update	Practical refresher aimed at CDC graduates; 2 days; experienced participants	AICD	http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au

² Thoughtpost Governance is the education development partner for GGI and receives affiliate fees from sales of this course.

Advanced:			
Mastering the Boardroom	The art form over the science, experiential, experienced participants, CDC prerequisite	AICD	http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au
NACD Master Class	Advanced thought leadership forum. Membership required.	NACD (USA)	www.nacdonline.org
Value Creation for Owners and Directors	Focuses on value creation through finance, governance, strategy, leadership and organisational skills	INSEAD	https://www.insead.edu
The Board Director's Program	Internationally recognised director program, mentor based	Henley Business School (UK)	http://www.henley.ac.uk/executive-education/course/the-board-directors-programme/
Not-for-Profit:			
The Diploma of Business (Governance)	Extensive board training with good focus on cultural values, fundraising and working with management	Institute of Community Directors	www.communitydirectors.com.au
Certificate IV in Governance	4 day foundations	Institute of Community Directors	www.communitydirectors.com.au
Good Governance: Great Results	1 day overview	Institute of Community Directors	www.communitydirectors.com.au
Governance Foundations for NFP Directors	Flexible module delivery in foundation topics of duties, board meetings, finance, strategy and risk	AICD	http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au
The Role of the NFP Chair	Practical focus, experienced facilitators	AICD	http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au

Chairmanship:			
Leading from the Chair	3 day international peer based, skills sharing and practice course	INSEAD	https://www.insead.edu
The Role of the Chair	Interactive, practical with experienced participants	AICD	http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au
Finance:			
Boardroom Financial Acumen	Improving financial literacy through case study work	AICD	http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au
Foundations of Directorship	Day two of the foundations program for those who have not done the CDC, financial literacy including financial strengths/weakness analysis	AICD	http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au
Nonprofit Financial Stewardship Webinar	Introduction to Accounting and Financial Statements. Designed to introduce basic nonprofit accounting concepts and financial statements to individuals who have had little or no experience with finance or accounting	Harvard University	https://online-learning.harvard.edu/course/nonprofit-financial-stewardship-webinar-introduction-accounting-and-financial-statements?delta=0
Risk:			
Applied Risk Governance	Exploring the interconnections between risk culture and strategy, including risk appetite, risk reporting and risk committees	AICD	http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au
Strategy:			
The Intersection of Technology, Strategy, and Risk	8 part webinar series, leading technology strategy issues, USA. Membership required.	NACD (USA)	www.nacdonline.org
The Strategic Board	Application of tools and frameworks using case studies	AICD	http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au
Wharton School of Executive Education in Strategy	Recognised world leader in wide ranging short courses on contemporary strategy	Wharton University of Pennsylvania	http://executiveeducation.wharton.upenn.edu/for-individuals/program-topics/strategy-and-management

Director Effectiveness:			
Peer mentoring / coaching	Meet regularly with a peer to discuss contemporary issues		
International:			
International Company Directors Course	CDC with a focus on Asia, attended by experienced Australian expat executives and regional directors interested in Australian perspectives on governance	AICD	http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au
INSEAD International Directors Program	Intensive 3+3+3 day international program	INSEAD	https://www.insead.edu
Online:			
The Boardroom Excellence Series	Range of contemporary governance practice issues including cyber security, diversity, shareholder activism, big data and conscious capitalism. Membership required.	NACD	https://www.nacdonline.org/Education/BoardRoomExcellenceWebinars.cfm?navItemNumber=3717
AICD webinars	Duties, responsibilities and current issues e.g. cyber security	AICD	http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au/education/courses-for-the-director/webinars
Board Minded	Online courses on the fundamentals, finance, role of chair and board evaluations developed by one the early leaders in Australian director education	Governance Matters	http://www.governancematters.com.au/subscriptions/
The Professional Director	CDC level online course covering the fundamentals of directorship with examination	Brown Governance (Canada)	https://www.professionaldirector.com

ATTEND

	<i>Description</i>	<i>Provider</i>	<i>Link</i>
Essential Directors Update	Annual current issues update. Annual update addressing the latest governance issues and trends for company directors.	AICD	http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au/events/essential-director-update
Australian Governance Summit	2-3 March 2020 Sydney. Annual event for directors and governance professionals from across a range of sectors to discuss critical boardroom issues, meet and network.	AICD	http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au/events/australian-governance-summit
International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN) Annual Conference	9-11 June 2020, Toronto: Addressing the impact of corporate governance and investor stewardship reforms and highlighting future priorities for companies, investors and stakeholders alike	ICGN	https://www.icgn.org/events/icgn-2020-annual-conference-toronto
Better Boards Conference	24-26 July 2020 Sydney. Leading Australian NFP board conference addressing contemporary issues from diverse perspectives	Better Boards	https://betterboards.net/bbnews/dates-announced-better-boards-conference-2020/
National Conference	3-4 September 2020 Melbourne	GIA	https://www.governanceinstitute.com.au/courses-events/calendar-of-events/annual-conferences/
Global Board Leaders' Summit	October 10-13 2020: Contemporary issues; largest director global forum, (membership required)	NACD (USA)	https://summit.nacdonline.org/register

ENGAGE

	<i>Description</i>	<i>Provider</i>	<i>Link</i>
Director Pathways	An intensive program around director career development and aspirations	Bravo Consulting	https://bravocareers.com/
Director Nexus	Regular peer forum to discuss the practice of directorship	AICD	http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au/membership/director-nexus
Director/chair mentors and coaches	A range of mentoring and coaching services exist. Consider using your network to identify a director or chair who you may be able to engage for peer to peer mentoring or ask peers about their mentors.		
Committee membership	Consider which committees of the board might provide you with further development		
Projects / portfolios	Consider projects or portfolios that you might suggest to the chair where you and other directors could gain further insights		
Presentations	Seek the support of the chair to undertake research into an area of the organisation or environment and provide a board presentation		
Director buddy	Identify a board colleague who you would benefit from regular interaction or establish a board-wide program. Create appropriate structure to ensure ongoing benefit. Consider “reverse mentoring” with younger directors/executives		
Management buddy	Seek the support of the chair and CEO to have a short term buddy arrangement with a senior executive in a skill or an area of the organisation in which you would like to develop a greater insight		

JOIN

	<i>Description</i>	<i>Provider</i>	<i>Link</i>
Governex Online training	An online, practice based community		https://ggi.community/governex/
Australian Institute of Company Directors	Extensive online resource base, education discount, Boardroom Report (online update on current issues), annual complimentary Essential Directors Update		http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au
Governance Institute of Australia	Low cost subscriber membership provides a subscription to the monthly Governance Directions magazine, the most comprehensive coverage of technical governance issues		http://www.governanceinstitute.com.au
Future Directors	For Generation X and Y directors		http://www.futuredirectors.com.au
Our Community	NFP governance newsletter, education discount		www.ourcommunity.com.au
National Association of Corporate Directors (NCAD)	US based internationally recognised director member body providing access to leading edge training, events and content		www.nacdonline.org
30% Club	Chairs, CEOs and equivalents of listed companies and professional services firms to act as change agents for board gender diversity		https://30percentclub.org/about/chapters/australia