

# PUBLIC SECTOR FINANCE & ACCOUNTING LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

KEY LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR  
CAREER ADVANCEMENT

7 - 10  
MAY 2019

BOAT HOUSE BY THE LAKE  
CANBERRA

## LEARN FROM



**Robert Hanlon**  
Chief Financial  
Officer



**Lisa Harris**  
Assistant Secretary  
Financial  
Compliance  
Branch



**Lawrence Hosking**  
Director Financial  
Reporting and  
Grants Policy



**Pranay Lodhiya**  
Chief Financial  
Officer



**Damien Adler**  
Assistant Secretary,  
Budget Analysis  
Branch



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## EVENT PARTNERS



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# INVEST IN SUCCESS

Digital advances and demands for agile business practices have triggered the evolution of finance and accounting. Similarly, the public sector is facing increasing pressure to achieve more with less.

As a result, finance professionals are facing new levels of accountability and high expectations. To keep pace with progression, you must have a firm understanding of industry trends and a forward-thinking approach to decision making.

This is your chance to hear from some of Australia's most accomplished finance professionals as they share their expertise and advice. Our lineup of experts will reflect on their journeys and explore the turning points that shaped their careers.

- ▶ **Key** leadership skills for finance professionals
- ▶ **Transition** from ledger to leader
- ▶ **Strategic** tools for budgeting, forecasting and planning
- ▶ **Advance** as a strategic business partner

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## WHO WILL ATTEND?

- ▶ Management Accountants
- ▶ Business Analytics / Financial Planning
- ▶ Group Finance Managers
- ▶ Financial Directors
- ▶ Finance Managers
- ▶ Officers / Coordinators / Executives
- ▶ Financial Controllers
- ▶ Chief Financial Officers

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8 MAY

# CONFERENCE DAY 1

## EARN CREDIT AS AN AUTHENTIC LEADER

KEYNOTE

9:00 - 9:50

Strong leaders manage others in a way that complements the strongest aspects of their personality. Developing a confident leadership style takes time, but feeling comfortable with your ability to communicate will help you lead others effectively.

**Lisa Usback**

Assistant Secretary, Financial Management Branch

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**



## EVOLVE FROM A TECHNICAL EXPERT INTO A CONFIDENT LEADER

CASE STUDY

9:50 - 10:40

Transitioning into a leadership position requires you to draw upon your technical knowledge and confidently confront challenges. To achieve this, you will need a combination of technical abilities, commercial acumen and positive influence.

**Lawrence Hosking**

Director Financial Reporting and Grants Policy

**Attorney-General's Department**



## EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE THE COMPLEXITIES OF PUBLIC FUNDING

EXPERT COMMENTARY

10:55 - 11:45

Communicating complex information in a simple way can be a daunting challenge. This session will help you communicate effectively, increase retention and boost engagement.

**Sheena Ireland** Director **Specialists in Communications**

## DRIVE CHANGE AS A STRATEGIC BUSINESS PARTNER

CASE STUDY

11:45 - 12:35

The finance function is expected to drive performance within an organisation. To succeed, you must support business priorities by delivering insight and value that stimulates growth.

**Thao Le**

Chief Financial Officer

**ACT Government**

## ENHANCE DECISION MAKING AND FINANCIAL FORECASTING

PANEL

1:35 - 2:25

As a leader, strong decision-making abilities are a powerful way to make your team better. Financial forecasting is an essential element in helping you make decisions confidently and quickly.

**Lawrence Hosking**

Director Financial Reporting and Grants Policy

**Attorney-General's Department**



**Andrew MacFarlane**

Director, Sport Financial Advisory

**Sport Australia**



**Bernadette Thompson** Assistant Director,  
Public Financial Management Advisory Services  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**



**Damien Adler**

Assistant Secretary, Budget Analysis Branch

**Department of Finance**



## TAKE THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR CAREER

EXPERT COMMENTARY

2:25 - 3:15

A forward focus isn't just a characteristic of the finance function - it's an essential part of being a leader. To reach your goals, you must define your vision and devise a strategy for success.

**Dr Derek J Ambrose** Principal **Smart Public Leadership**

## KEY ISSUES FOR EXECUTIVE FINANCE PROFESSIONALS

EXPERT COMMENTARY

3:30 - 4:30

Senior finance professionals face many challenges with a backdrop of new regulations and developments in technology. Being prepared to confront these issues with a constructive mindset will improve your leadership style.

**Adam Coonan**

Principal & Director

**Coonan Consulting**

## NETWORKING RECEPTION

4:30 - 5:30

Make the most of your experience, join us to network over complimentary canapés and drinks.

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## CONFERENCE DAY 2

### LEAD WITH TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC FINANCE

KEYNOTE

9:00 - 9:50

The availability of timely, relevant and reliable information offers clarity on your government organisation's financial position. With this clarity, you can recognise the cost and benefit of government activities.

**Jason McGuire**

Chief Financial Officer

National Archives of Australia



### ACCOUNTING ASSURANCE AND MANAGING LARGE PROJECTS

EXPERT COMMENTARY

9:50 - 10:40

Large public projects can be challenging to manage due to cost, disputes over responsibility, new regulations, and operational requirements. With all of these variables, it's necessary to identify the most pressing issues and communicate effectively.

**Chris Puschak**

Principal Consultant, Governance and Assurance

Synergy 360

### ANALYSING THE BIGGER PICTURE AS A FINANCE PROFESSIONAL

CASE STUDY

10:55 - 11:45

In the rapidly changing public sector environment, it's essential to look beyond the present and search for the next steps. Looking at the bigger picture allows you and your organisation to achieve your goals with clarity.

**Pranay Lodhiya**

Chief Financial Officer

Australian Bureau of Meteorology



### ENSURE REALISTIC BUDGETING PROCESSES AND MANAGE EXPECTATIONS

PANEL

11:45 - 12:35

A comprehensive and efficient budgeting process is critical for management success. Effective budgeting can elevate your organisation and improve team productivity.

**Peter Dunlop**

Chief Financial Officer

Sport Australia



**Charles Wann**

First Assistant Secretary, Financial Management Division

Department of Health



**Nick Hetherington**

Finance Manager

Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House



### BUILD YOUR VALUE AS A LEADER

CASE STUDY

1:35 - 2:25

Hard work and measurable output contribute to career progression, but don't make up the full equation. Your ability to build value and visibility will enhance career advancement opportunities.

**Robert Hanlon**

Chief Financial Officer

Department of the Environment and Energy



### THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

CASE STUDY

2:25 - 3:15

Accountability strengthens team culture, breeds excellence, and ensures ownership. As a leader in the public sector, it's essential to understand the importance of building relationships with trust and authenticity.

**Lisa Harris**

Assistant Secretary Financial Compliance

Department of Defence



### INVEST IN YOUR SUCCESS

ROUNDTABLE

3:30 - 4:30

In this final interactive discussion we will summarise the takeaways from the event and develop strategies for career progression.

**Mark Butz**

Principal

Futures by Design

7 MAY

## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

### STRENGTHEN YOUR CAPABILITIES

Discover how to communicate confidently as a strategic leader, improve your leadership skills and maximise your influence.

Develop an authentic leadership style and brand

- ▶ Lead with purpose and influence
- ▶ Exude executive presence
- ▶ Project your leadership style and voice

Strategic communication and relationship management

- ▶ Build rapport and prioritise key relationships
- ▶ Strengthen interpersonal communication to influence those around you
- ▶ Anticipate different leadership styles and navigate different personalities

Effective career planning and career challenges

- ▶ Define the steps to successfully transition into your next role
- ▶ Explore a comprehensive tool-kit on how to successfully develop your leadership career
- ▶ Identify common leadership challenges

Lead with resilience in challenging times

- ▶ Maintain a positive attitude
- ▶ Demonstrate resilience
- ▶ Focus on strategic action

**Mark Butz** Principal Futures by Design

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## POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

### FINDING THE BALANCE BETWEEN TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND LEADERSHIP ROLES

Strategies to navigate your career and tackle the critical transition from specialist to leader. You'll gain a greater understanding of your leadership strengths and learn how to leverage these for success.

Position yourself for promotion

- ▶ Embrace feedback and fast-track your development
- ▶ Create opportunities by expanding your professional network
- ▶ Strengthen the soft skills necessary for career progression

Prepare for an executive career

- ▶ Understand the value that you add to your organisation
- ▶ Learn to communicate effectively as a strategic business partner
- ▶ Identify your strengths and transform them into exceptional leadership skills

Cement your skills as an effective decision maker

- ▶ Adapt to the importance of accountability
- ▶ Transform challenges into opportunities
- ▶ Navigate honest and difficult conversations

Find your voice as a leader

- ▶ Influence different personality types
- ▶ Develop effective negotiation and persuasion techniques
- ▶ Identify how to utilise your optimal leadership style within the context of your organisation

**Kevin Riley** Managing Director Capital Training College

