

# Public Sector Finance & Accounting Leadership Conference

Excel as a leader, strengthen professional relationships and position finance as a valued partner within the business

## FEATURED SPEAKERS



**Lisa Harris**  
A/g First Assistant Secretary, Reform and Reinvestment Roadmap  
**Department of Home Affairs**



**Dr Derek J Ambrose**  
Chief Financial Officer  
**Smartpublicleadership P/L, Comcare**



**Lorna Raine**  
Chief Financial Officer  
**George Weston Foods Limited**



**Jessica Lambous**  
Chief Finance Officer  
**Victorian Department of Economic Development  
Jobs Transport and Resources**



**Susan Mitchell**  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Mortgage Choice**



**Lisa Usback**  
Assistant Secretary, Financial Management Branch  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**



**Lawrence Hosking**  
Director, Financial Reporting and Grants Policy  
**Attorney-General's Department**



**Andrew MacFarlane**  
Director, Sport Financial Advisory  
**Australian Sports Commission**



**Peter Dunlop**  
Director of Strategic Budgeting  
**Australian Sports Commission**



**Ariana King**  
Acting Assistant Secretary Financial Business Support  
**Department of Health**



**Susan Fraser**  
Assistant Auditor-General, Technical Audit  
**Victorian Auditor General's Office**



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



**Joseph Borgese**  
Director  
**Department of Finance**



**Dr Derek J Ambrose**  
Chief Financial Officer **Comcare**  
**Smartpublicleadership P/L**



**Thao Le**  
Chief Financial Officer  
**ACT Government**

Theme: 'Invest in Success'

**Summit**

21 & 22 November 2018

Hyatt Hotel, Canberra

Key skills for finance professionals

From ledger to leader

Strategic tools for budgeting, forecasting and planning

Step up as a strategic business partner

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# 2018 Theme: 'Invest in Success'

The Public Sector is evolving rapidly, presenting various unprecedented challenges and exciting opportunities. Existing and emerging finance leaders have the opportunity to invest in their success and redefine the future of their leadership careers.

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.

## Summit Day One

21 November 2018

### OPENING KEYNOTE CASE STUDY 9.00 - 9.50

#### Taking the next step in your career

- Practical and personal advice for career progression
- Channel constructive advice into action
- Advice for climbing the corporate ladder

**Dr Derek J Ambrose**  
Chief Financial Officer  
Smartpublicleadership P/L, Comcare

### CASE STUDY 9.50 - 10.40

#### The importance of accountability as a finance leader

- Reflect on and learn from defining moments
- Improve your delegation skills
- Build teams who feel a positive personal ownership for their work

**Lisa Harris** A/g First Assistant Secretary,  
Reform and Reinvestment Roadmap  
Department of Home Affairs



### EXPERT COMMENTARY 10.55 - 11.45

#### Accounting assurance and managing large public projects

- Contextualise information effectively
- Relay meaningful insights from data analysis
- Transform your management style

**Chris Puschak**  
Principal Assurance & Governance  
Synergy 360 Consulting

### CASE STUDY 11.45 - 12.35

#### Seize opportunities for leadership development

- Step up for career building opportunities
- Take advantage of acting roles
- Create a leadership profile for yourself

**Susan Mitchell** Chief Executive Officer  
Mortgage Choice



### INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION 1.35 - 2.25

#### Managing the complexities of public funding

- Decisive approaches for changing industry demands
- Guidance and advice on key priorities confronting finance leaders
- Diminishing funds vs increasing costs

**Dr Derek J Ambrose**  
Chief Financial Officer Comcare  
Smartpublicleadership P/L

**Peter Dunlop**  
Director of Strategic Budgeting  
Australian Sports Commission



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



### CASE STUDY 2.25 - 3.15

#### Driving change as a strategic business partner

- Drive clear performance outcomes as a leader
- Proactive vs reactionary leadership
- Essential negotiation skills for senior executives in finance roles

**Thao Le**  
Chief Financial Officer  
ACT Government

### EXPERT COMMENTARY 3.15 - 4.20

#### Communication skills for finance professionals

- Enhance authentic and strategic communication
- Active listening and effective questioning
- Maximise your presentation skills

**Mark Butz**  
Principal  
Futures by Design

### NETWORKING RECEPTION 4.30 - 5.30

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## OPENING CASE STUDY 9.00 - 10.00

### Earning credit as an authentic leader

- Build genuine professional relationships
- Remain authentic when working under pressure
- Establish your personal leadership brand

**Lisa Usback** Assistant Secretary,  
Financial Management Branch  
**Department of Foreign Affairs  
and Trade**



## CASE STUDY 10.00 - 11.00

### Evolving from a technical expert into a confident leader

- Realise and communicate your full potential
- Impact and instil strength in your team
- Develop a strategic and agile leadership identity

**Lorna Raine** Chief Financial Officer  
**George Weston Foods Limited**



## INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION 11.15 - 12.15

### Forecasting the future of finance in the Public Sector

- Emerging issues around new standards
- The evolving role of the finance professional
- Manage changing standards and regulations

**Lawrence Hosking**  
Director, Financial Reporting and  
Grants Policy  
**Attorney-General's Department**



**Susan Fraser**  
Assistant Auditor-General,  
Technical Audit  
**Victorian Auditor General's Office**



**Ariana King** Acting Assistant Secretary,  
Financial Business Support  
**Department of Health**



## INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION 1.15 - 2.15

### Analysing the bigger picture as a finance professional

- Understand the changing workforce
- Overcome resisters to change
- Ensure that your work is relevant and valuable

**Joseph Borgese** Director  
**Department of Finance**



**Andrew MacFarlane**  
Director, Sport Financial Advisory  
**Australian Sports Commission**



**Jessica Lambous**  
Chief Finance Officer  
**Victorian Department of Economic  
Development Jobs Transport and  
Resources**



## EXPERT COMMENTARY 2.25 - 3.15

### Accelerate your presentation skills

- Improve your public speaking skills
- Why preparation is key
- How being more 'present' builds your influence

**Liz Tilley**  
Coach  
**Liz Tilley Coaching**



## INTERACTIVE CLOSING ROUNDTABLE 3.30 - 4.20

### Invest in your success

- Key lessons gained from the summit
- Important skills to help you succeed
- Develop an action plan moving forward

**Mark Butz**  
Principal  
**Futures by Design**

## Who will attend?

Current, aspiring and future leaders across the Australian Public Sector in Finance and Accounting roles including:

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

## About the event

The world of finance and accounting has changed significantly over the past decade. Digital advances and demands for agile business practices have triggered an evolution of the finance function. As a result, finance professionals are facing new levels of accountability and high expectations. To keep up with progression, it is imperative for finance professionals to understand current trends and step up as a strategic business partner.

Similarly, the public sector is a complex and dynamic environment to navigate as a leader due to increasing pressure to achieve more with less. Progressive financial experts and leaders in this environment need to be well informed and have a forward-thinking approach to decision making.

Liquid Learning is proud to present the inaugural Public Sector Finance and Accounting Leadership Conference, bringing together some of Australia's finest financial experts and leaders to reflect on their experiences and share their insights. Participants will leave with a sharper understanding of how to navigate these challenges in an effective way and accelerate their career.

