

PUBLIC SECTOR FINANCIAL MODELLING WORKSHOP

**BEST-PRACTICE & FLEXIBLE
FINANCIAL MODELLING TO
SUPPORT DECISION MAKING**



**27 & 28
AUGUST 2019**
CLIFTONS SYDNEY

EXPLORE

- ▶ Develop & apply technical excel skills to produce a best practice financial model
- ▶ Gain the analytical skills needed to interpret complex or big data
- ▶ Develop a robust & informative financial model to drive strategic direction
- ▶ Overcome the common challenges associated with financial modelling in the Public Sector
- ▶ Explore tools to obtain critical data for financial modelling
- ▶ Understand key variables & their impact upon model outcomes
- ▶ Explore evaluative techniques to test model quality & effectiveness
- ▶ Optimising dashboards to clearly present model outcomes to senior management

EXPERT FACILITATOR



Nico Mellett
Consultant
Axium Solutions Pty Limited

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ABOUT THE EVENT

Financial models provide leaders in the Public Sector with the insight needed to inform major strategic decisions. It is crucial for finance professionals to create accurate models based on relevant data to provide leaders with the metrics needed to drive organisational direction. However, without the correct resources and information, it can be difficult to build an accurate and outcome driven financial model. To access both the funding and data needed for a successful financial model, finance professionals must actively engage with internal stakeholders throughout the modelling process.

In the turbulent environment of the Public Sector, budget changes and staff restructures are inevitable and often interfere with financial modelling. To adapt to changing variables, it is imperative that finance professionals are equipped with the skills to accommodate uncertain parameters. Through the use of software and organisational skills, finance professionals can keep complex models user friendly and visually appealing to meet the needs of senior management and internal stakeholders.

WHO WILL ATTEND?

- ▶ Financial Modellers
- ▶ Financial Analysts
- ▶ Business Analysts
- ▶ Forecasting Managers
- ▶ Budgeting Managers
- ▶ Strategic Planning
- ▶ Investment Analysis
- ▶ Finance Managers
- ▶ Planning Managers
- ▶ Financial Reporting Officers
- ▶ Management Accounting

YOUR FACILITATOR

Nico has been working with Axiom Solutions since 2016. He is a qualified Chartered Accountant and has a core focus on financial modelling, data analysis and stakeholder management to ensure value is achieved and benefits are realised.

Previously, Nico has also been a contractor to the Department of Defence, delivering financial tender evaluation and RFT development services to numerous large-scale capability acquisition projects. Previously at DHA, as Manager of Portfolio Analysis, Nico developed and maintained financial forecasting models supporting DHA's property portfolio. Also at DHA, Nico was Fixed Asset Manager (Financial Accounting), responsible for managing the financial side of properties valued in excess of \$2 billion and oversaw the fixed assets side of the financial statements preparation. Nico also worked at the Australian Sports Commission in Canberra in the asset accounting and financial statement preparation space.

Prior to moving to Australia, Nico worked in the Cayman Islands from 2009 to 2012 at KPMG, auditing the financial statements of hedge funds and later at the international fraud investigation and dispute resolution firm KRYG Global as a financial analyst. Nico's career started at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2005 where he performed the Financial Statement audits of public and private sector entities across a diverse range of industries.



Nico Mellett
Consultant
Axiom Solutions Pty Limited

DAY ONE

Essential soft skills that support best practice financial modelling

- ▶ Routinely consult with management to embed senior level awareness of project milestones
- ▶ Administer case by case benchmarking to ensure best practice and excellent outcomes
- ▶ Work closely with business and policy teams to meet organisational expectations and inform decision making
- ▶ Set written standards for models to maintain modelling quality and consistency

Planning techniques to support effective research, data gathering and analysis

- ▶ An overview of the challenges associated with accessing robust and consistent data from a variety of sources
- ▶ Extend reach to broaden analysis and incorporate innovative types of qualitative and quantitative data
- ▶ Establish a data working group to maximise model value
- ▶ How to deal with large datasets when conducting in depth analysis

Financial modelling with uncertain and emerging variables

- ▶ The challenges of working with uncertain variables and parameters
- ▶ The cornerstones of a flexible model
- ▶ Incorporate Sensitivity Analysis into a financial model to mitigate risk and increase accuracy
- ▶ Apply controls to ensure model accuracy and robustness

Financial modelling in a changing and political environment

- ▶ The art of project management and flexibility in a restructuring workforce
- ▶ Understand the key elements of scenario analysis and how it can inform senior level decisions
- ▶ Maintain a capable team whilst working with strict deadlines and limited funding
- ▶ Meeting internal stakeholders' expectations whilst operating in a political environment

DAY TWO

Applying technical skills to aid best practice modelling

- ▶ Common pitfalls of complex financial models and tools to overcome them
- ▶ Best practice methods to efficiently derive project budgets in a large and dynamic organisation
- ▶ Maintain vigilance in order to identify technical risks of a new model to mitigate user difficulties
- ▶ The value of developing a model based on structured data

Ensure model quality through testing and evaluation

- ▶ Techniques to measure model effectiveness through evaluative methods
- ▶ Methods to conduct thorough pilot testing to scrutinise a financial model
- ▶ A review of tools and functions that protect your data and increase model security

Create a clear model for finance and non-finance employees

- ▶ Tools to clearly visualise financial models that comprehensively display data and outcomes
- ▶ Apply basic VBA for simplicity and easy model navigation
- ▶ Understand the importance for best practice model documentation and specification to benefit multiple users
- ▶ A review of Graphical User Interfaces that enable clear presentation

Advanced financial modelling tools and functions

- ▶ Explore shortcuts that increase efficiency when building a robust, thorough financial model
- ▶ Review Aggregate Functions to simplify complicated and conditional calculations
- ▶ Understand different types of cell referencing to speed up variable calculations - Relative, absolute and mixed referencing

