

# **AISSA 2015 GOVERNANCE PROGRAM**



**Saturday 2 May 2015**

**Walford Anglican School for Girls**

**Unley Road, Hyde Park**

## AISSA GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE



The 2015 Governance Conference provides an outstanding opportunity for Board members to enhance their knowledge and share their wisdom.

AISSA is committed to Boards' professional growth and development, because we know it is one of the critical factors in a successful school.

We are delighted to have a range of expert speakers from both education and the wider community to increase our knowledge and understanding. In particular we welcome our keynote speaker, the internationally renowned education expert Dr Yong Zhao to Adelaide to challenge our thinking about what education needs to be and do for and with our students.

The conference has strands to cater for both new and experienced Board members.

**The Governance Essentials** strand has been designed for those relatively new to Boards and will focus on those aspects of governance which are fundamental to the role such as finance and performance indicators, compliance and risk management.

**The Contemporary Approaches to Governance** strand is for experienced Board members keen to learn about innovative approaches to board structure, composition and management.

There is no question that the skills and experience of governors are critical to the success of each school, the growth of the sector and for education provision as a whole.

I would encourage all members of School Boards to make the most of this unique professional learning opportunity.

Carolyn Grantskalns

## PROGRAM

9.00-10.00am	<b>Keynote Address</b> Dr Yong Zhao, The Future of Education		
10.00-10.15am	<b>Reflection time</b>		
10.15-10.45am	Morning Tea		
<b>Workshop 1</b>	<b>Governance Essentials Strand</b>		<b>Contemporary Approaches to Governance Strand</b>
10.45-11.45am	Finance and Performance Indicators Mr Henry Botha	<b>OR</b>	Board and Principal Evaluation Mr David Spear
<b>Workshop 2</b>			
11.45-12.45pm	Compliance Obligations Ms Rosey Batt	<b>OR</b>	ICT in Schools - The Governance Role Mr Danny Gruber
12.45-1.45pm	Lunch		
<b>Workshop 3</b>			
1.45-2.45pm	Risk Management Ms Suzy Daw	<b>OR</b>	Board Composition, Structure and Development Mr David Spear
2.45-3.30pm	<b>Keynote Address</b> Mr Rob Ball, Managing Your School's Reputation		
3.30-4.00pm	<b>Keynote Address</b> Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns, Issues Impacting on Independent Schools		

## KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

9.00-10.00am

### **Educating for First World Economies**

#### **Professor Yong Zhao**

How do we educate our children for a world where future work and careers will require students to create their own employment opportunities?

In the new global economy, the jobs that exist now might not exist by the time today's students enter the workplace. Professor Yong Zhao believes that to succeed in this ever-changing world, students need to be able to think like entrepreneurs: to be resourceful, flexible, creative, and global.

Professor Yong Zhao challenges schools to focus on cultivating independent thinkers who are willing and able to use their learning differently to create jobs and contribute positively to the globalised society. He argues that schools need to:

- Understand the entrepreneurial spirit and harness it
- Foster student autonomy and leadership
- Champion inventive learners with necessary resources
- Develop global partners and resources

Professor Zhao says the key to educating for first world economies is to equip students to make meaningful decisions and enable them to explore non-traditional learning opportunities, so they will become tomorrow's global entrepreneurs.

2.45-3.30pm

## **Managing Your School's Reputation**

### **Rob Ball**

Being a great school is its own reward but, from a Board viewpoint, a school's reputation is, at least partly, about driving enrolments. If nobody knows that you exist or understands what it is that you do really well then you have not successfully managed your school's reputation. Likewise, doing the 'right thing' to manage a crisis is essential but may not be sufficient if your school's hard-earned reputation is to be upheld.

In this keynote address, Rob Ball will challenge Boards to consider and, if necessary, review the plan that guides how they communicate with their communities, external audiences and media 24/7 and, of course, during and after a crisis or major issue.

A communication plan and the commitment to execute it are integral – not optional – to a school's policies, procedures and core calling.

3.30-4.00pm

## **Issues Impacting on Independent Schools.**

### **Carolyn Grantskalns**

This keynote address presented by Carolyn Grantskalns will scan the education horizon internationally and nationally with particular reference to issues Boards members need to consider to ensure their schools thrive.

## GOVERNANCE ESSENTIALS STRAND

10.45 – 11.45am

### **Finance and Performance Indicators**

#### **Henry Botha**

All School Board members have a legal responsibility for financial management. This introductory program is designed for participants who have little or no financial experience and wish to gain an understanding of school financial reports.

The following topics will be covered:

- Typical school assets, liabilities and equity
- Typical school revenue and expenses
- Developing and reviewing school budgets

This practical workshop will utilise a school case study and an analysis of actual school reports. Participants will be provided with an opportunity to raise questions and discuss specific situational school financial management issues in a confidential context.

11.45 – 12.45pm

### **Compliance Obligations**

#### **Rosey Batt**

Changes to the law in Australia have placed greater responsibilities on School Board Chairpersons and members than ever before. These changes mean that Board members need to be vigilant and aware of the Board's vulnerability to liability. This workshop will explore how School Board Chairs and members can remain alert to current legislation and regulations.

1.45 – 2.45pm

## **Risk Management**

### **Suzy Daw**

Whatever the size and nature of a school, risk is present. Board members should be aware of the school's risks and be confident that their risk management strategies, controls and procedures are effective.

By unpacking a real life scenario, this workshop will provide a practical approach to understanding risk addressing:

- How a robust Risk Management Governance Structure works in an Independent school
- How to get started with risk
- The expectations on Board members in responding to risk

Board members will learn about simple ways to address risk and opportunity in the boardroom and leave the workshop with the ability to ask the right questions about risk. Participants will also be provided with a starter pack of templates, designed to develop a risk governance framework.

## CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES TO GOVERNANCE STRAND

10.45 – 11.45am

### **Board and Principal Evaluation**

#### **David Spear**

This interactive workshop will guide and explore the rationale surrounding both Board and Principal evaluations. The “if not, why not” scenario applies to these important governance processes. High performing Boards and organisations must continue to challenge themselves on a range of governance areas that are critical to success. Directors Duties and Responsibilities, Decision Making, Board Culture, Strategy and Risk are all areas that the Board must review and as CEO’s of significant businesses, Principals must also be reviewed by Boards who are searching for high performance, strategy output, risk mitigation and more. This interactive workshop will challenge participants to think about the processes, the reasons, benefits and outcomes of these important functions using scenario based group work and a “Ritual Dissent” program.

11.45 – 12.45pm

### **ICT in Schools - The Governance Role**

#### **Danny Gruber**

Workshop attendees will have an opportunity to examine the challenges Boards face in relation to ICT. This workshop will assist Boards with decision making strategies to ensure ICT plans presented by management can be responded to in a way that will assure the future progress and development of ICT in the school.

The following will be addressed:

- What do Boards need to know about ICT in schools?
- What is best and worst ICT practice?

- What do Boards need to consider when making decisions about ICT proposals?

This workshop will be interactive and will involve participants in a scenario based discussion.

1.45 – 2.45pm

## **Board Composition, Structure and Development**

### **David Spear**

This interactive workshop will examine the fundamental building blocks required for a high performing Board with a culture that strives for high performance. Appropriate Board composition, structure and development are essential if the Board is able to drive the school's strategic direction.

The following issues will be addressed:

- Appropriate Board skill sets
- Ineffective Board Members
- Governance and committee structure that enable performance to be monitored
- Board structures that facilitate effective lines of communication

This workshop will provide some useful strategies and helpful hints around Board composition and structure.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### **Dr Yong Zhao**

Dr Zhao is an internationally known scholar, author, and speaker. His work focuses on the implications of globalization and technology on education. He has designed schools that cultivate global competence, and founded research and development institutions to explore innovative education models. He has published over 100 articles and 20 books. Dr Zhao currently serves as the Presidential Chair and Director of the Institute for Global and Online Education in the College of Education, University of Oregon, where he is also a Professor in the Department of Educational Measurement, Policy, and Leadership.

### **Mr Rob Ball**

Mr Rob Ball is an experienced public relations practitioner who has worked as a senior journalist and a senior policy and strategy adviser to a State Premier. He counsels clients in the private and public sectors, health, the environment, professions, sport and local government and has strong credentials in strategy development and the management of complex public relations issues. As a journalist at *The Advertiser*, Mr Ball reported industrial affairs, police and politics. His awards in journalism include a 1980 Media Peace Prize Gold Citation from the United Nations Association of Australia for coverage of land rights for Pitjantjatjara Aborigines. He established Ball Public Relations in 1998.

### **Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns**

Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns is Chief Executive of the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia. Mrs Grantskalns began her teaching career in the Education Department of South Australia and moved to the independent sector in 1988. In 1990 she was appointed Principal of Wilderness School, a position she held until 2006. During that time she was variously Chair of the Industrial Relations Committee of AISSA, President of AISSA, and a member of the Boards of a tertiary residential college, St Ann's, the teacher credit union SATISFAC and the National Council of Independent Schools of Australia. In 2006 she was appointed Principal of Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar School in Essendon, Victoria, and in 2013 she returned to Adelaide to take up her current role.

## WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

### Mr Henry Botha

As a founding partner at Higgins Botha, Mr Botha has been involved in accountancy, finance and management consulting for most of his career. Mr Botha has conducted financial management training courses on behalf of corporate clients, government departments and educational institutions. He also presents sessions for the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the Executive Education Unit of the University of Adelaide and the Melbourne Business School. Mr Botha is currently a Director of MIGA, a provider of medical indemnity insurance for doctors around Australia. He is also a Director of two venture capital-backed companies, Levett Engineering Pty Ltd and CPR Pharma Services Pty Ltd.

### Ms Rosey Batt

In 2001 after a number of years as a partner in large leading Adelaide legal firms and having completed her Master of Science and Technology Commercialisation, Rosey founded her legal firm. Her vision was to create a highly professional legal firm that valued its clients and provided a flexible and friendly environment for its staff. The firm now employs a number of senior solicitors, paralegals and law clerks. Ms Batt's primary area of practice is Contract, Corporations Law, Finance, Property, Competition and Consumer Law and Corporate Governance. However her firm provides a full range of legal services. As well as being a facilitator for the Australian Institute of Company Directors in their Company Directors Course, Ms Batt has extensive Board experience and currently sits on several Boards including as Chair of the Seymour College Board.

### Ms Suzy Daw

Ms Daw is a risk management consultant and business mentor with her own business, MQM Business Consultants. She has seventeen years' experience in risk and strategic consulting for the public and private sector.

She sees her main skills as people based and after working in a variety of industries, she views herself and her work in a strategic and facilitating role bringing together the notion of 'risk and opportunity'.

## **Mr David Spear**

David Spear is an alumni of the respected Harvard Business School Governance program, and a graduate of numerous Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) courses, including the Company Director Course, The Strategic Director, The Not for Profit Board and Assessing Company Performance courses.

Mr Spear is currently Chairman of Uniting Care Wesley Bowden Inc. and the Free Throw Foundation and a Non-Executive Director at a number of other organisations across South Australia.

## **Mr Danny Gruber**

RTG is a leading ICT educational consulting firm that works in collaboration with schools across all levels to create, develop and review an ICT strategy that supports and compliments the educational and business objectives of schools. Danny Gruber leads the Business Consulting Division.

Mr Gruber is an accomplished leader in digital media, unified communications and managed services. He has worked in London and Silicon Valley, and specialises in global product commercialisation, client relationship management and learning technologies. More recently, he has been involved in helping schools across the country develop their ICT and financial strategies around BYOD, Data and Parent Funded Procurement initiatives.