BOARD READINESS™ PROGRAM

A program designed to provide you with the skills required to become a successful board director.

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AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE *of* COMPANY DIRECTORS

WiT Board Readiness™ Program

A program designed for leaders from STEM industries to develop the skills, confidence and networks required to take the next step to becoming a successful board director, all within a safe and inclusive environment.

Why we need more women on boards

Six years ago, AICD and the 30% Club Australia, set a voluntary target of 30% women on boards. In 2015, women only made up 20.6% of ASX 200 directors, and by 2020, women held 31.3% of board seats on the ASX 200. While the representation of women on ASX 200 boards has continued to climb, AICD Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Mark Rigotti said, "I look forward to continuing this work with the 30% Club Australia and refocusing our efforts for the next phase of the campaign".

The latest statistics reveal that, as of August 2023 women now hold 40% of board seats on the ASX 20, and 35.6% in the ASX 300. To read more on this click here.

WiT believes that a critical element of Board effectiveness is diverse and equitable composition and the WiT Board ReadinessTM Program aims to build the calibre and unlock the potential of candidates available for Board selection.

Why the WiT Board Readiness™ Program

Although there are a number of programs promoting the importance of Board diversity and redressing the gender imbalance at Board level, WiT's program offers a unique and broad ranging mix of practical advice and opportunities for networking. The program is unique in its recognition of the importance of technology skills at Board level.

Participants are equipped with skills required to become highly effective Board Directors and provided with the opportunity to showcase these skills to some of Queensland's highest profile organisations. The program is designed for women in all STEM industries who have the desire to apply their personal and professional skills to becoming a successful Board Director.

This program offers a range of benefits including valuable networking, practical workshops, a mini photography session to ensure you have a professional headshot, facts and knowledge about becoming a director, guidance on how to build your personal brand via networking and social channels and how to position your executive profile as well as incorporating elements from other first-class programs with sessions presented by the Australian Institute for Company Directors (AICD). The program culminates with an industry luncheon to introduce program graduates into the business community.

Program Objectives

- Support participants in achieving the skill set required to become highly competent and capable Board Directors
- Lessen the gender divide at board level
- Provide participants with an overview and stepping-stone approach to a board career
- Market and promote the benefits of having directors with technology skills on Boards
- Effectively partner with other organisations involved in development of Board skills to develop a common goal of elevating women to high-level positions, especially boards and enhancing their careers through access to resources and practical training
- Achieve successful Board placements in private, public and not-for-profit sectors

What the WiT Board Readiness™ Program can do for you

- Connect and grow within a supportive cohort who share your ambition to explore a stepping-stone into a board career
- Focus on success factors pertaining to appointment of women on boards and the importance of technology skills at Board level
- Develop and spotlight your professional executive profile with expert guidance and recognition of your unique skills, experience and ability
- Level up your financial skills with tips and shortcuts for critically analysing financial statements and learning what to look for
- Get the latest industry advice in key sessions from the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD)

Program Timetable and Key Dates (may be subject to change)

APPLICATION PROCESS		
Applications Open	1 March 2024	
Applications Close	22 March 2024	
Successful Candidates Notified	28 March 2024	
PROGRAM TIMETABLE		
Prep Session Introduction to the program (virtual)	30 April 2024	7:30am-8:30am
Workshop 1 The Role of the Director and the Board	2 May 2024	5:30pm-9:00pm
Workshop 2 Panel Discussion with experienced Board Directors	9 May 2024	5:30pm-8:30pm

Workshop 3a
Building your Brand
    Profile development
    Recruitment
    Online brand
	14 May 2024	5:30pm-8:30pm

Workshop 4 Introduction to the Strategic Role of the Director	23 May 2024	5:30pm-9:00pm
Workshop 5 Panel Discussion with experienced Board Directors	30 May 2024	5:30pm-8:30pm
Workshop 6a Foundations of Finance (Virtual)	4 June 2024	5:30pm-8:30pm
Workshop 6b Finance for Directors	6 June 2024	5:30pm - 8:30pm
Workshop 3b Profile review and complete	11 June 2023	5:30pm-8:30pm
Workshop 7 Sharing experiences: Mock Board + Analysis	20 June 2024	5:30pm-8:30pm
Industry Luncheon Graduation, keynote & present back board profiles	12 July 2024 (subject to change)	12:00pm-3:00pm

All workshops except virtual sessions will be held in person at an inner Brisbane city location.

What you need to be successful in this program

- Readiness to unlock your unique board-relevant value and skillset
- Relevant qualifications and experience as an executive leader in the STEM industry
- Strength of commitment to establishing a successful Board career
- Commitment to and understanding of the objectives of the Board Readiness™ Program
- Availability to participate in all program events and activities
- Commitment to Women in Technology and its objectives

Applications

The WiT Board Readiness™ program is offered in a group format capped at 25 participants.

The application process is competitive and based on an assessment of the applicant's skills and experience along with their suitability to take on Board roles in the future.

WiT reserves the right to refuse entry to any applicant and reduce or increase the cap for the program.

There is a cost payable, upon acceptance into the Board Readiness™ Program of $2,250 for WiT members and $2,500 for non-members. Cost includes attendance at VIP Industry luncheon, all workshops, support materials and production of professional profiles. All prices inc GST.

Candidates will be selected based on their written application. The selection panel may wish to contact a referee if further information is required.