



Public Sector Assurance Forum

Thursday 31 July 2025 – Conference Program

Friday 1 August 2025 – Workshop Program

Hyatt Hotel, Canberra

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THURSDAY, 31 JULY 2025

7.30AM – 8.45AM CHIEF AUDIT EXECUTIVE BREAKFAST FORUM

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This is an exclusive invitation only event limited to CAEs which will focus on the emerging issues for the internal audit profession and the critical role of the CAE. This interactive forum will provide the opportunity for you to engage with, debate, question and discuss various issues at strategic level with your peers, as well as, provide insight into senior executives' and stakeholders' expectations of internal audit.

8.30am – 9.00am
REGISTRATION AND ARRIVAL REFRESHMENTS

9.00am – 9.10am
WELCOME ADDRESS AND OPENING REMARKS

9.10am – 9.55am
KEYNOTE 1

Serving the community through a resilient Public Sector

- > Overview of external factors and demands that are changing the way the public sector delivers services
- > The importance of culture and skills in a resilient public sector
- > Impacts of digitization – The opportunities and risks ahead
- > Applying dynamic operational strategies to deliver public services
- > Embedding practical governance and control processes and how the assurance can provide support

Pat Hetherington, Chief Operating Officer, Department of Social Services

9.55am – 10.00am
SESSION TRANSITION BREAK

10.00am – 10.45am
CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1

1A Climate risk assurance

- > Overview of the federal government's Climate Risk and Opportunity Management Program, including resources to uplift capability
- > Insights from completing an inaugural public sector climate risk assessment and/or annual climate risk assessment update
- > Withstanding scrutiny – Establishing assurance mechanisms to give confidence that public sector climate-related risks and opportunities are being managed

Mitchell Sandilands PMIIA CIA, Assistant Director, Enterprise Risk and Program Advisory, The Treasury
Wendy Emerton, Risk Manager, Australian Office of Financial Management

Nigel Pinto, Director Climate Risk, Department of Climate Change, Energy, The Environment and Water

Greta Bartels, A/g Assistant Director, Department of Climate Change, Energy, The Environment and Water

1B AI controls – Getting the rules of engagement right

- > Defining your organisations AI footprint– Where and how AI operates
- > AI guardrails – Exploring guidelines, standards and ethical principles on AI deployment in the public sector
- > Approaches to identifying, assessing and mitigating risks associated with AI use – Addressing bias, privacy and decision accountability
- > The role of the assurance function in balance the risks and benefits of AI

Darren Menarchemson, Partner, Synergy Group

10.50am – 11.15am
MORNING TEA NETWORKING BREAK AND EXHIBITION VIEWING

11.15am – 12.00pm
CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2

2A Auditing for fraud in procurement – Strengthening controls and detection

- > Identifying common fraud schemes in procurement and recognising behavioural and transactional red flags
- > Building effective procurement controls to strengthen accountability and ongoing fraud prevention
- > Designing an effective audit approach in the procurement cycle
- > Using data analytics, sampling strategies and regular reporting for prevention and detection

Speaker to be confirmed

2B Data governance – Protecting your most valuable asset

- > Understanding what data your organisation holds, how it's classified and where sensitive or high-risk data resides
- > Identifying responsibility over data - Ensuring governance roles are clear and embedded in daily operations
- > Ensuring compliance with privacy laws, internal policies, and control requirements to protect data
- > Identifying the early warning signs of data leakage and develop a clear, compliant response plan for potential data breaches
- > How internal audit can provide effective support in monitoring data governance

Glynnis Barodien, Executive Manager (Data Governance & AI Lead), Digital Office, CSIRO

12.00pm – 12.05pm
SESSION TRANSITION BREAK

12.05pm – 12.50pm
KEYNOTE 2

Public sector integrity – Ensuring ethical government

- > Defining the expectations of integrity across the public sector
- > Understanding the role of and obligations to regulators and watchdogs – Insights from recent cases
- > Assessing the ethical performance of the public sector – Determining the key metrics and behaviours
- > Applying a risk-based approach to prioritise areas for integrity improvement and remediation
- > Developing a framework to improve ethical governance within public organisations

The Hon Paul Breerton AM RFD SC, Commissioner, National Anti-Corruption Commission

12.50pm – 1.50pm
LUNCH NETWORKING BREAK AND EXHIBITION VIEWING

Lunch sponsored by



1.50pm – 2.35pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS 3

3A Compliance mapping – Aligning assurance with regulatory and organisational requirements

- › Understanding how mapping compliance obligations supports a proactive compliance culture
- › Defining compliance ownership – Ensuring clear accountability across the first, second and third lines of defence
- › Addressing compliance risk – Assessing adequate coverage and identify potential gaps or overlaps
- › Real-world implementation insights – Highlighting challenges, tools and outcomes

Dr Eliza Moule, A/g Director Audit, Risk and Assurance, Transport Canberra and City Services, ACT Government

3B Managing risk in technology transformation projects – The role of assurance in keeping projects on track

- › Evaluating the organisation's technology maturity and its impact on successful project execution
- › Key lessons from past failures – Misaligned expectations, inadequate change management, budget overruns, resistance to new technologies
- › Understanding the critical role that internal audit can play in overseeing and advising on the execution of information technology projects
- › Applying effective auditing techniques for assessing the progress and health of information technology projects
- › Driving a collaborative approach to build effective controls, governance and risk management throughout the project lifecycle

Panellists include:

Damien Browne AMIIA, Chief Internal Auditor, Australian Taxation Office

David Berkelmans AMIIA, Principal, Anchoram Consulting

Jade Woodhouse AMIIA, Chief Audit Executive, Australian Electoral Commission

2.35pm – 2.40pm SESSION TRANSITION BREAK

2.40pm – 3.25pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS 4

4A Indigenous engagement for audit success

- › The importance of understanding traditional heritage when undertaking audits – Connection to country, community and kinship
- › Enabling Increased positive engagement and improved stakeholder relationships
- › How organisations today are effectively engaging traditional owner's heritage
- › Overcoming practical challenges and opportunities for the future

Darren Schaeffer PMIIA CGAP, Chief Finance Officer, Providence Consulting Group

Belinda Kendell, General Manager, Curijo

Tina McGhie, Co-Chief Executive Officer, Curijo

4B Emergency management assurance

- › Identifying the critical components of an effective emergency management – Including risk assessments recovery strategies and continuity of operations under pressure
- › Developing audit and evaluation criteria to assess the effectiveness of your emergency management procedures using realistic, risk-based scenarios to validate preparedness
- › Applying practical assurance approaches such as desktop walkthroughs, live simulations and coordinated exercises with key partners or agencies
- › Defining roles and responsibilities during a crisis – Establishing clear escalation paths and processes to address roadblocks in critical situations
- › The importance of the continual monitoring and measuring the performance of your emergency management plan

Wayne Phillips, Commissioner, ACT Emergency Services

3.25pm – 3.45pm AFTERNOON TEA NETWORKING BREAK AND EXHIBITION VIEWING

3.55pm – 4.40pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS 5

5A Addressing workforce management risk

- › Understanding the growing complexity of workforce management risk
- › Overview of emerging legislation that will impact HR, including:
 - › Diversity and inclusion
 - › EBA and payroll requirements
 - › Psychosocial health and well-being
- › Insights on the grey areas such as employee / employers' rights on flexible work arrangements
- › Impacts of emerging capability risk
- › Understanding responsibilities and liability risk in relation to human resources

Stephen Calder PMIIA GradCertIA, Director, Scyne Advisory

5B Practically applying the Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS)

- › Applying the changes in practice – Challenges and benefits
- › Tools and methodologies for aligning your audit activities with the revised Standards
- › Managing the requirements of the Standards with other legislations and guidelines
- › Building your internal audit strategy
- › Leveraging the new Standards to improve audit quality, consistency and impact

Philippa Ardlie, Manager Governance | Chief Audit Executive, NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (NSW)

Suzette Gay PMIIA, GradCertIA, Chief Audit Executive, Department of Education (NSW)

Kylie McRae PFIIA CIA, Manager, Consulting Services, IIA-Australia

4.40pm – 4.45pm SESSION TRANSITION BREAK

4.45pm – 5.30pm KEYNOTE 3

Decision making governance – Having the right conversations, culture and controls

- › Cultivating a culture of accountability and informed risk-taking – Creating a safe environment for the assurance function to challenge assumptions and escalate concerns
- › Defining who is accountable for what – Ensuring clarity in roles, responsibilities and decision thresholds to avoid ambiguity and foster ownership
- › Leveraging the assurance function, peer reviews and performance feedback to evaluate whether accountability is being upheld and decisions are being delivering as intended
- › Implementing practical governance mechanisms – Such as decision registers, audit trails, role-based approvals that support transparency and traceability
- › Insights from reality – Where has it gone wrong and how can we do it better?

Panellists Include:

Lisa Berwick AMIIA, Chief Internal Auditor, Australian Securities and Investments Commission

Elizabeth Montano, Chair / Deputy Chair / Member, Commonwealth Audit & Risk Committees

Bruce Turner PFIIA CGAP CRMA AM, Independent Audit Committee Chair

5.30pm – 5.35pm CLOSING REMARKS

5.35pm – 6.30pm NETWORKING DRINKS

FRIDAY 1 AUGUST 2025

8.15am – 8.30am
REGISTRATION AND ARRIVAL REFRESHMENTS

8.30am – 12.30pm
WORKSHOP 1 – AUDITING PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

With increasing scrutiny on the effectiveness, efficiency, and integrity of government program and projects, it is essential that internal audit functions are well-equipped to provide assurance and insights. This workshop will explore the audit lifecycle, risk management strategies, and practical techniques for delivering high-impact audits in a dynamic, complex environment.

Key areas to be covered:

- › Identifying key objectives, risks, and controls in programs and projects
- › The role of internal auditors in change programs and projects
- › Aligning audit focus with strategic priorities and value delivery
- › Effective scoping techniques and stakeholder engagement in the planning phase
- › Approaches to fieldwork, evidence collection, and documentation
- › Assessing project governance, delivery performance, financial management and benefit realisation
- › Embedding assurance in change program/project delivery (three lines model)
- › Integrating real-time assurance and progressive reviews
- › Working with delivery partners, PMOs, and external auditors
- › Developing a roadmap for assurance uplift
- › Tools and techniques for auditing in agile, waterfall, and hybrid environments
- › Using assurance maps to identify gaps and duplication
- › Structuring audit reports for clarity and impact to communicate findings and recommendations to senior leaders and audit committees

Key learning outcomes:

- › Understand the unique aspects of auditing public sector programs and projects, including key governance and risk considerations
- › Develop audit scopes and approaches for change programs and projects
- › Influence a strong assurance culture on change programs and projects
- › Apply structured audit planning and execution techniques to assess program and project performance effectively
- › Communicate audit findings with clarity to drive accountability and improvement
- › Coordinate assurance activities to enhance oversight and reduce duplication across complex initiatives

Presenter:



Kumar Srinivasan
Director – Risk & Insurance, University of Technology Sydney

Kumar Srinivasan is the Director of Risk & Insurance at the University of Technology Sydney, with over 25 years of experience. He has led assurance activities, developed

enterprise risk frameworks, and specialized in risk and assurance roles across various sectors, including infrastructure, utilities, property, and higher education. Kumar has held senior roles in public sector, including being the Chief Risk Officer of Sydney Metro. Kumar also offers independent risk consulting through G K Services Australia Pty Ltd, a risk and assurance advisory firm.

Kumar has played a pivotal role in driving transformative change and ensuring that organisations successfully navigate uncertainties to achieve their strategic objectives. His expertise encompasses providing assurance for change programs, which enables businesses to adapt and prosper in dynamic environments.

Kumar holds a bachelor's degree in engineering and a master's degree in engineering management from the University of Technology Sydney. He is the Chapter Councillor of the Institute of Internal Auditors Australia, NSW Chapter, and the State President of the Risk Engineering Society, NSW - Engineers Australia. Additionally, he is also a Honary Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and Engineers Australia.

12.30pm – 1.00pm
LUNCH FOR THOSE ATTENDING BOTH WORKSHOPS

1.00pm – 5.00pm
WORKSHOP 2 – GAINING ASSURANCE OVER THE QUALITY OF PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

This workshop is designed to support professionals across the public sector in gaining assurance over the quality of performance statements. With increasing emphasis on transparency, accountability, and outcomes-based reporting, it is critical that agencies meet the expectations of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (PGPA) Act and other public sector requirements to deliver high-quality, auditable performance information. This session will explore key audit criteria, the evolving performance reporting framework and the integral role of internal audit in driving improvement and readiness.

Key areas to be covered:

- › The legislative and governance context, including the PGPA Act and associated guidance from the Department of Finance and the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) and other public sector guidelines
- › Importance of performance statements in demonstrating how agencies achieve their purpose and outcomes
- › Overview of the ANAO's audit approach to performance statements
- › Understanding key criteria including relevance, reliability and completeness of performance measures
- › Key milestones and reporting cycles under the performance framework
- › How internal audit can provide assurance and advisory support on performance reporting readiness
- › Conducting performance reporting readiness reviews and controls assessment

Key learning outcomes:

- › Understand the latest legislative and policy drivers behind performance statements in the public sector
- › Apply ANAO audit criteria to assess and enhance the quality of performance measures and reporting
- › Identify opportunities to improve transparency, accuracy, and alignment of performance information
- › Navigate the performance reporting cycle, including key milestones and compliance expectations.
- › Recognise the critical role of internal audit in preparing agencies for performance statement audits and fostering a culture of performance and accountability

Presenters:



Ben Fittler
Senior Manager, McGrathNicol

Ben is a Senior Manager in McGrathNicol's Government Advisory practice, specialising in the design of tailored governance and performance frameworks for Commonwealth Government clients. He draws on a deep understanding of the

Australian public sector, its operating context, and contemporary policy settings to deliver fit-for-purpose solutions.

Ben has played a key role in strengthening performance reporting frameworks for a range of Commonwealth Government agencies of varying size and scope, including regulators and Departments of State.

Notably, Ben has first-hand experience supporting agencies through an ANAO performance audit, providing strategic advice, developing frameworks, processes and tools, and delivering on-the-ground support to business areas.

He offers detailed insights into the performance reporting requirements under the PGPA Act, with a focus on practical implementation that enhances operational effectiveness and supports informed decision-making.



Chris Hartsuyker AMIIA
Senior Manager, McGrathNicol

Chris is a Senior Manager in McGrathNicol's Government Advisory practice, specialising in performance and internal audits. He has recently led internal audit engagements focused on performance reporting for several Commonwealth Government agencies.

An IIA-Australia member, Chris brings deep experience in delivering internal audits for Commonwealth Government clients. In the context of performance reporting frameworks, he provides actionable recommendations to support alignment with the PGPA Act and better practice guidance issued by the Department of Finance and the ANAO.

Chris' work contributes to uplifting public sector capability, enhancing transparency, accountability, and strategic decision-making. He offers valuable insights into the evolving performance reporting landscape and the complementary role of internal audit.

HOW TO REGISTER

Online registration

For credit card payments, register online at www.iaa.org.au and follow the prompts.
Each delegate must complete a separate online registration. Please note this is a secure website.

Registration forms

If you require an invoice, registration forms can be scanned and emailed to conferences@iaa.org.au
Each delegate must complete a separate registration form.

Venue details

Hyatt Hotel, Canberra
120 Commonwealth Ave, Yarralumla ACT 2600

Conference fees

All fees are quoted in Australian Dollars and are inclusive of the 10% compulsory goods and services tax (GST).

CPE

Attendance will provide 8 CPE hours.

Public Sector Assurance Forum 2025 – Registration Fees

Early Bird	Register before or on 18 July 2025
Early Bird Member	\$1030
Early Bird Non-Member	\$1230
Standard	Register after 18 July 2025
Standard Member	\$1200
Standard Non-Member	\$1400
Workshops (In-person only)	Register Anytime
Attend One Workshop – Member	\$440
Attend One Workshop – Non-Member	\$540
Attend Both Workshops – Member	\$780
Attend Both Workshops – Non-Member	\$980

Group discount – A group discount of 10% applies to in-person registrations only, when three or more people from the same organisation book at the same time. The relevant member or non-member rate will apply.



Internal Audit is **uniquely positioned** to shape a risk-aware culture and **influence the behaviours** of those around it.



Registration form & tax invoice

Public Sector Assurance Forum – Thursday 31 July, 2025
Public Sector Assurance Workshops – Friday 1 August, 2025



1. PROVIDE PERSONAL DETAILS – please use block letters

Title Prof Dr Mr Mrs Ms Miss Other

Family name

Given name

Postnominal CIA® CCSA™ CGAP™ CFSA™
CRMA™ GradCertIA QIAL™ Other

Position

Organisation

Address for correspondence

City/State Country Postcode

Telephone ()

Facsimile ()

Mobile

Email

Name as you wish it to appear on name badge

Please indicate your membership number

IIA Member

2. CONFIRM REGISTRATION TYPE AND FEES

Early Bird – register before or on 18 July 2025

Member	\$1,030
Non-Member	\$1,230

Standard – register after 18 July 2025

Member	\$1,200
Non-Member	\$1,400

Optional Workshops (in-person only) Register anytime

1 workshop – Member	\$440
1 workshop – Non-Member	\$540
Both workshops – Member	\$780
Both workshops – Non-Member	\$980

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES \$

3. INDICATE CONCURRENT SESSION PREFERENCES

10.00am – 10.45am

- 1A Climate risk assurance
 1B AI controls – Getting the rules of engagement right

11.15am – 12.00pm

- 2A Auditing for fraud in procurement – Strengthening controls and detection
 2B Auditing for fraud in procurement – Strengthening controls and detection

1.50pm – 2.35pm

- 3A Compliance mapping – Aligning assurance with regulatory and organisational requirements
 3B Managing risk in technology transformation projects – The role of assurance in keeping projects on track

2.40pm – 3.25pm

- 4A Indigenous engagement for audit success
 4B Emergency management assurance

3.55pm – 4.40pm

- 5A Addressing workforce management risk
 5B Practically applying the Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS)

5.35pm – 6.30pm

- YES, I will attend the networking drinks
 NO, I will not attend the networking drinks

4. REGISTER FOR WORKSHOP

Workshops – Friday 1 August 2025

8.30am – 12.30pm Workshop 1 – Auditing programs and projects

1.00pm – 5.00pm Workshop 2 – Gaining assurance over the quality of Performance Statements in the public sector

5. PAYMENT DETAILS

Method of payment (please choose an option)

- Credit card via secure payment link on invoice
- Bank transfer to the account details
Account Name: The Institute of Internal Auditors – Australia
Bank: Westpac Banking Corporation
Address: 84 King Street, Sydney NSW 2000
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Overseas telegraphic transfer will incur AUD\$25.00 bank administration fees. The delegate is responsible for all fees associated with the transaction. To enable us to identify your payment, please ensure that your name and **Public Sector Assurance Forum 2025** appear on the transfer. Please email a record to accounts@iia.org.au

Alternatively, if you are paying by credit card and don't require to be pre-invoiced, you can skip filling in the form and register and pay online by visiting the conferences page at www.iia.org.au

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Definitions

The word 'event' refers to all our conferences, workshops, webinars, members meetings, professional development training courses, dinners and other networking occasions.

Invoicing, Payment & Registration

If an invoice is requested for an event, payment must be received within 14 days of the invoice date. The registration for events will not be processed until full payment is received. The registration fees includes certificate of attendance, lunch and morning and afternoon tea.

Cancellation Fees

All cancellations must be notified in writing to IIA-Australia. No refunds will be given for non-attendance. The following cancellation fees apply:

- Cancellations received 15 days or more before the event: 15% fee applies
- Cancellations received between 14 days and 8 days before the event: 25% fee applies
- Cancellations received within 7 days before the event: 100% fee applies

Cancellation by IIA-Australia

We reserve the right to alter published programs, speakers and venues without prior notice. However, events are intended to be provided as advertised. Professional development training courses are subject to sufficient participant numbers. If the event has to be cancelled, you will be notified at least one week in advance of the event. Our liability is limited to a full refund of the event fee only. No compensation will be paid for any other costs incurred by the delegate, such as travel or accommodation. IIA-Australia accepts no liability if an event is cancelled or postponed for reasons beyond our reasonable control.

Privacy Statement

I, or a later substitute, hereby consent to my/their name, position and organisation being included in the Conference Delegate list and forwarded by IIA-Australia to related third parties including sponsors and exhibitors. For virtual attendees, when visiting virtual exhibition booths your contact details will be made available to the exhibitors.

I acknowledge that details will be used to confirm my membership status at IIA-Australia. IIA-Australia may use a third party conference service provider to process your registration. Photographs and videos may be taken at the event to be used for IIA-Australia promotional purposes. IIA-Australia will handle any personal information collected on this form in accordance with its Privacy Policy.

Transferring Your Place to Someone Else

If you are unable to attend an event, you can send someone else in your place provided that person meets the entry requirements of the event. Please notify us in advance so that we can update our delegate list. If the replacement delegate is not entitled to attend at the same price (for example if an IIA-Australia member sends a non-IIA-Australia member in his or her place) then the difference in fees must be paid before the event is held.

Transferring Fee to Another Event

Transferring your registration to another event 15 or more days prior to the event incurs a fee of 10% of registration fees.

Transferring registration to another event within 14 days prior to the event is not permitted.

Liability

IIA-Australia does not accept responsibility for anyone acting as a result of information or views expressed by speakers. Delegates should take specific advice when dealing with specific situations. Opinions expressed are those of individual speakers and not necessarily those of the IIA-Australia.

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