

A photograph showing a group of business professionals in a modern office setting. They are silhouetted against a large window that looks out onto a city skyline. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. In the foreground, a pair of glasses and some papers are visible on a table.

# Independent Schools Governance Workshops

Governance workshops cover a range of Governance topics and can be designed specifically to educate and assist your school board. The workshops are regularly updated in response to changes in legislation and regulations, improvements in recognised best practice and the changing needs of independent schools.

The purpose of the workshops is:

- to raise governors' awareness of their legal obligations as directors of public companies
- to examine the relationships between the school board, the chair of the board, the head of the school and the business manager
- to promote best practice in the governance of independent schools.

The AIS Governance workshops are a key element in the provision of high quality, proactive support to member independent schools. Workshops can be customised to meet the specific needs of individual school boards.

The structure of the program is divided into two sessions, which can be chosen from the options on the reverse of this leaflet.

For any enquiries or to schedule a Governance Workshop for your school board, please contact Brittney Unicomb at [bunicomb@aisnsw.edu.au](mailto:bunicomb@aisnsw.edu.au) or phone 02 9299 2845.

# Sessions

## Session One: Current Issues for the Independent Sector

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- AIS membership and membership services
- The independent sector
- School funding
- Emerging issues for school boards
- 'Value add' and value for money
- Organisation performance

## Session Two: Effective Governance

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- Recent governance case studies
- Director's duties
- Financial governance
- Charter of Operations for school boards
- Section 83C NSW Education Act
- NESA and school governance

## Session Three: Managing Risk

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- What is risk and risk management?
- Risk management vs risk aversion
- The role of the board and risk
- Risk management policy
- Risk management systems
- Establishing a risk management framework

## Session Four: Executive Supervision

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- How do boards increase the likelihood that management will be successful?
- Executive supervision - too little or too much?
- The Board/Principal relationship
- The Board/Principal delegation
- The Board's 'Value add'
- Recent legislative changes

## Session Five: Strategy

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- What is strategy?
- Strategic governance models
- Strategic planning in schools
- The Board's role in strategy
- Identifying key strategies
- Implementation

## Session Six: Financial Governance - Part 1

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- The Board's role
- Directors' duties
- Insolvency
- Role of the Financial Committee
- Monitoring financial performance
- Financial risk

## Session Seven: Financial Governance - Part 2

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- Budgets
- Financial reporting
- Financial analysis
- Dashboard and ratio analysis
- Case study analysis

## Session Eight: Reputational Risk

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- Reputational case studies
- Identification of key reputational risks
- Managing responses
- Practice exercise in managing reputational risk
- Mitigation of reputational risks

## Session Nine: The School's Legal Framework

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- The Constitution
- Fiduciary
- Legal Duties
- Fit and Proper persons

## Session Ten: Child Protection Policies

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- Legislative Compliance and Relevant Policies
- Child Safe organisations
- Understanding Sexual Abuse
- Risk in Schools
- Organisational Culture

For the school's convenience Governance Workshops are conducted at the school. The program is complimentary to member schools as part of the school's membership subscription.