

MEDIA RELEASE

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**Bendigo Board Members to Benefit from AICD's Flagship Course
*AICD to Host Company Directors Course in Bendigo***

On Monday 30 July 2018, the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) will hold its next Company Directors Course at the All Seasons in Bendigo, Victoria, providing its members and non-members with the opportunity to learn the skills and frameworks which are essential in any board director's toolkit.

Well-known for its prestigious director training programs, the AICD offers a range of courses and events to enable sector and organisation-specific issues to be covered in-depth. AICD is active in regional areas and its governance courses are ideal for companies and organisations of all sizes.

"Members of the AICD in Bendigo are highly engaged. We are pleased to be able to offer members and non-members in regional Victoria the opportunity to undertake their Company Directors Course locally and improve their governance and directorship skills," said Sally Leake GAICD, State Manager of the Victoria Division, AICD.

To be held one day per week over five consecutive weeks, the popular Company Directors Course will prepare directors and aspiring directors for their board roles, covering issues such as compliance, fiduciary duties, issues in contemporary directorship, best practice in governance and risk management, organisational performance and strategy and board effectiveness.

The course comprises intensive, interactive sessions which are run by expert facilitators who have extensive real-world director and leadership experience. The course also provides a unique learning environment with the opportunity for networking with like-minded individuals at different stages of their own board directorship journeys.

Abhishek Awasthi GAICD, is a local Bendigo alumnus who completed his Company Directors Course last year after he received the Loddon Mallee Regional Scholarship, one of the AICD's 2017 regional scholarships. Awasthi has a background in student engagement and education and is currently the Chairman of the Board of Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services Inc (LCMS), which provides support services for new and emerging communities in regional Victoria, such as migrant and refugee communities.

The AICD recently announced that applications are now open for the 2018 regional scholarships. The scholarships are being offered to 2 individuals in the Loddon Mallee region to undertake the AICD's Company Directors Course in Bendigo, commencing on Monday 30 July.

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“I learned so much from doing the Company Directors Course, not just the skills and knowledge but also from the group with whom I completed the course. They come from all different walks of life and have such a wealth of experience to draw from. We still keep in touch now and provide support or advice to each other when needed,” said Awasthi, Chairman of the Board of LCMS.

LCMS works closely with Victorian Government agencies and other organisations to celebrate diversity, deliver and provide access to much-needed services such as employment, language and legal assistance, as well as developing vibrant social and cultural opportunities for these communities through initiatives such as food, arts and music.

Awasthi commented that when organisations operate in the Not-For-Profit (NFP) space, there are sensitivities and governance challenges which boards need to be not only aware of, but also accountable for.

“It is absolutely critical for NFP board directors to understand that they are equally as liable as listed companies or other organisations. Even if they are volunteers, there must be accountability,” Awasthi said.

Awasthi is of the view that there is a skill shortage in regional Australia when it comes to governance and board effectiveness and that the AICD is a valuable resource for people wanting to develop or hone these skills.

“The AICD is committed to delivering innovative, tailor-made training and events which cater to the needs of our regions. The Company Directors Course and the regional scholarships offer our members and non-members the opportunity to improve their governance skills and be at the top of their game when it comes to directorship,” said Sally Leake, AICD.

Victorian members wishing to enquire about the AICD regional scholarships should visit: <http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au/education/scholarships> or contact the Victoria Division on 03 9245 4200 or vic@aicd.com.au.

For more information on the Bendigo Company Directors Course visit: <http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au/education/course-calendar/vic/ev137467-company-directors-course>

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