

MEDIA RELEASE
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**AICD's Public Sector Governance Forum to Highlight Governance Challenges in
Australia's Changing Democracy**

The Australian Institute of Company Directors' (AICD) annual public sector governance forum, which will be hosted in Canberra on August 29, is an essential event for public sector executives and directors wishing to update their skills and knowledge of the governance issues facing the sector.

This important event will explore trends and challenges in public sector governance in the context of increasing public mistrust of government and members of parliament, changing community expectations and calls for significant changes to the proposed Commonwealth Integrity Commission to make it more accountable, more transparent and better resourced.

Keynote speaker Dr Steven Kennedy PSM, Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development will address delegates on governance in our changing democracy and look at how better outcomes can be achieved across agencies.

With trust in government at a low ebb in many OECD countries including Australia, the session on decision making on a world stage will explore the impact this has on the willingness of citizens to engage with decision makers and respond to public policies. Speakers at this session include Dr Stephanie Fahey AAICD, CEO Austrade, Mark Thirlwell, Chief Economist AICD and Clare Walsh, Deputy Secretary, Global Cooperation, Development and Partnerships Group, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The session, "Integrity in Government" will shine a light on the role integrity commissions play in building public trust and investigating fraud and corruption and discuss whether the proposed new Commonwealth entity will meet community expectations. Kate Griffiths, Senior Associate, Grattan Institute will be speaking at this session and will examine the merits of this proposed new entity.

"This is a step in the right direction, but it does not go far enough," said Griffiths. "There is no provision for public tip-offs, the scope for investigating members of parliament is extremely limited and it is not clear whether the Commission's findings will even be published. Overall, its powers are weaker than those of its state counterparts."

There will also be sessions on cooperation across State and Australian governments, developing capability in areas such as policy, procurement, regulation, service delivery and accountability and a comparative look at the differences between private and public sector governance.

"We are very pleased to be able to welcome delegates to this year's forum," said Suzanne Schultz, AICD State Manager, ACT. "Good governance is paramount for maintaining community confidence in our public institutions. The forum will not only provide public sector executives and directors with the opportunity to update their knowledge and skills, it will also provide an opportunity to build relationships with other public sector and committee leaders."

Held in partnership with the Institute of Public Administration Australia, the forum will open on the evening of Wednesday August 28 with a welcome reception which will include a keynote address by media luminary Kerry O'Brien.

To register or obtain additional information please visit:
<http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au/events/public-sector-governance-forum>

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The Australian Institute of Company Directors is committed to strengthening society through world-class governance. We aim to be the independent and trusted voice of governance, building the capability of a community of leaders for the benefit of society. Our membership of more than 44,000 includes directors and senior leaders from business, government and the not-for-profit sectors.