

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 31 May, 2018

**Tasmanian Directors to focus on Cyber Security at
Board Level**
***AICD to Host Director Briefing Event featuring Hobart Cybersecurity
Expert***

On Wednesday 6 June 2018, the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) will offer its members and non-members the opportunity to attend a Directors' Briefing event on cybersecurity from 5.45pm – 7pm at the AICD's office in Hobart.

The event will feature keynote speaker and local Hobart business leader, Gareth Willis GAICD and will focus on technology, the value of data and cybersecurity and the challenges boards face in terms of risk and governance around these issues.

Well-known for its prestigious director training programs, the AICD offers a range of courses and events to enable sector-specific 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.

An expert in the cybersecurity field, with a wealth of knowledge and qualifications under his belt, Willis is the Australian Information Security Association (AISA) Branch Executive for Hobart. He has also worked internationally in information security in the private sector spanning finance, mining and energy industries, to help companies develop, operate and manage operations while minimising risk and increasing their resilience.

"Tasmania is strong in innovation, and in today's increasingly digital landscape, it is essential that businesses are equipped with the skills to safety-proof their data and intellectual property. The AICD is pleased to provide the Hobart community with this opportunity to hear from a local expert on such an important and current topic," said John Devine, State Manager, Tasmania, AICD.

Willis says some of the challenges boards face in this area are frequent misunderstandings around cybersecurity, such as placing it under the theme of technology, which he says is a mistake because they are very different disciplines.

"The greatest challenge that I see most frequently is boards trying to understand the difference between cybersecurity and technology generally. Technology is about service delivery, cybersecurity is about governance and risk," Willis said.

He is of the view that Tasmania as a state is at the beginning of its cybersecurity journey but is moving in the right direction, with state and local government starting to put cybersecurity on their agenda, "Local government has a role to play in advising the broader community and I think effectively, they set the tone. If it's not on local

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE of COMPANY DIRECTORS

government's agenda, it's very difficult for the mums and dads of Tasmania to be aware that this is something they should take seriously," Willis said.

Willis will also explore the risks to business when cybersecurity isn't taken seriously, including damage to a company's reputation and brand equity. During the session, guests will gain insights into why protecting people's information is becoming increasingly valuable and is absolutely critical to the success of businesses.

"Businesses can't afford to stand idle on this issue but simultaneously because of the shortage of talent in cybersecurity, the cost of implementing a fully-blown information program can be quite substantial," he added.

Willis is a graduate of the AICD's popular Company Directors Course (CDC) and Senior Cybersecurity Consultant with One Dot Zero. He is a strong advocate for the AICD, stating that the main benefits of being associated with the AICD include its courses, diversity of membership and access to peer advice in a professional sense.

When it comes to cyber security and information security, Willis is of the view that excellent governance and excellent management of risk are the keys to success. He considers that the AICD is the recognised authority in governance in Australia, providing directors and aspiring directors with the opportunity to learn new skills in leadership which are fundamental to carrying out their board roles effectively.

Tasmanian members wishing to enquire about the AICD events or governance programs can contact the Tasmania Division on 03 6242 2201 or tas@aicd.com.au.

For more information on the Director Briefing event or to book tickets visit:
<http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au/events/events-calendar/tas/ev138130-director-briefings>

ENDS

For media enquiries please contact:

Momentum²: 02 9212 2000

Lyn Tuit : ltuit@momentum2.com.au 0405 160 275

Caitlin Maxwell: cmaxwell@momentum2.com.au 0415 316 554

The Australian Institute of Company Directors is committed to excellence in governance. We make a positive impact on society and the economy through governance education, director development and advocacy. Our membership of more than 41,000 includes directors and senior leaders from business, government and the not-for-profit sector.