

MEDIA RELEASE

March 29, 2019

AICD to Host Panel Discussion in Newcastle on Boardroom Culture and Ethics

As part of its suite of regional activities, the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) will host a special cocktail event, "Hunter Directors' Briefing: Culture and Ethics in the Boardroom" on Thursday April 11 in Newcastle.

Local panellists include Jennifer Leslie FAICD, non-Executive Director of the Newcastle Permanent Building Society who has 35 years' business and commercial experience at mid and senior levels and who is also a member of the AICD's Hunter Region Committee and Jann Gardner, GAICD, Chair of Hunter United Employees Credit Union. Gardner's wide-ranging experience includes her current roles on the University of Newcastle Council and on the council of Sophia Sanctus College.

They will be joined by Eve Crestani, MAICD, Director of Australian Unity Investment Real Estate Limited, who has served on numerous board committees as Chair and non-Executive Director. Crestani is currently a director of booking.com and Chairman of Seres (Hong Kong).

Together the speakers have a wealth of experience across all sectors including listed and unlisted companies, government and not-for-profit organisations and across different industries such as property, health, education and finance.

In the wake of recent Royal Commissions and the Prudential Inquiry into the Commonwealth Bank, the topic of culture and ethics in the boardroom is very timely. Other ongoing Royal Commissions such as the Royal Commission on Aged Care and Safety Quality are expected to have an important impact in regional communities where many such institutions are based.

The conversation will revolve around topics such as the communication of culture and ethics throughout an organisation, remuneration and ethical decision making, the accountability of directors to stakeholders and managing shareholder expectations.

The Newcastle event will provide a valuable opportunity for local executives and directors to delve into the issues and outcomes of the various inquiries and to network. "Regionally-based directors face many of the same challenges as city-based directors but they lack opportunities for training," said AICD NSW State Manager Lee Street. "The AICD is committed to providing governance education and governance support to these directors."

The AICD has a strong presence in the Hunter where its local committee is very active. The forthcoming event will also provide the opportunity for members and guests to farewell outgoing committee Chair, Richard Anicich AM who is also known for his roles as director and former Chairman of the Hunter Business Chamber. Anicich has been instrumental in developing the director network in the Hunter and Central Coast.

Darren Turner, incoming Chair, is well known to local businesses and is working closely with newly-appointed committee member Jennifer Leslie and ongoing committee members Samantha Martin-Williams, Liz Nicol, Russell Ware and Paul Hughes to provide leadership to the local director community and enhance the range of activities and programs available for members.

**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE
of COMPANY DIRECTORS**

For information on the event: <https://aicd.companydirectors.com.au/events/events-calendar/nsw/ev144515-director-briefings>

To register: nswevents@aicd.com.au

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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 43,000 includes directors and senior leaders from business, government and the not-for-profit sector.