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Melbourne Business School partners with AICD and AustralianSuper to transform the boards of Australia's top listed companies

Melbourne Business School, the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) and AustralianSuper are launching a new program to lift the capability of Australia's ASX 200 boardrooms.

Led by Tim Bednall, Lead Partner for Corporate Governance at King & Wood Mallesons, Ken Mackenzie, Chair of Melbourne Business School and Professor Jenny George, Dean of Melbourne Business School, the Australian Directors Program will ensure that newly appointed Non-Executive Directors of Australia's S&P/ASX 200 organisations have the skills to deal with the challenges of today's uncertainties while creating value for stakeholders.

Ken Mackenzie said that the program addresses a need to effectively prepare directors to address today's increasingly complex internal and external challenges.

"Boards are facing a far more complex operating environment than even a decade ago — from AI to climate and geopolitical risk," he said.

"What's compelling about this program is its focus on practical tools and peer learning, grounded in real board experience."

Professor Jenny George said the program will help newly appointed Non-Executive Directors understand the peer networks needed to make an impact and lead with confidence.

"Being a director isn't just about managing risk and complying with governance frameworks," she said.

"It's about real partnership between board members and executives in setting strategy, focusing on value creation and being courageous."

The program brings together Australia's leading business school, with the country's largest active investor in listed equities, and the world's largest director member organisation.

Mark Rigotti, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of AICD said they were excited to partner on this unique program for new ASX 200 directors.

“It combines real-world experiences from directors, underpinned by contemporary corporate governance practices. It will help newer directors navigate the complexity of the modern business environment.”

Shaun Manuell, Head of Australian Equities at AustralianSuper, which has more than \$100 billion invested in the ASX, said the fund was proud to support the program.

“As Australia’s largest active investor, it’s in members' interest for Australian companies to have the best possible governance,” he said.

“We want the companies we invest in to focus on sustainable, long-term value creation. This program will give board directors the tools to know what to look for and how to get the best out of corporate Australia.”

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