



INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the standing of the Institute and its programmes?

The Institute for Strategic Leadership is a private organisation and has no affiliation with any university. Its status and reputation stands proudly on the shoulders of the top executives who attend the Institute's programs, and the unsolicited testimonials that they offer to others by word-of-mouth.

The Australian alumni of the Strategic Leadership Programme includes the former Chief of the Royal Australian Navy, the Vice Chancellor of James Cook University, a Council Member of Swinburne University, the Chief Executives of: NRMA, Baycorp, Westnet, Sydney Ports, Brisbane Airport, Queensland Water, Justice Department (ACT); and, senior executives from Babcock & Brown, CBA, ANZ, GHD, CSIRO, and Schenke Process.

New Zealand alumni include the Deputy Prime Minister, Chief of Defence, Deputy Chief of Defence, Chiefs of Royal NZ Navy, NZ Army, and Royal NZ Air force; and Air Marshal Bruce Ferguson, Director of the GCSB. Senior executives from the commercial sector include: Craig Norgate (current Executive Director of PG Wrightson and former CEO of Fonterra), Jeff Jackson (former Director of Datacom, Mercury Energy and CEO of the NZ Dairy Group, AFFCO, Fletcher Fishing and Wool NZ); Greg Muir (Executive Chairman of Pumpkin Patch and previous CEO of the Warehouse Group); and Dr Nicki Crauford (Chief Executive of Institute of Directors).

The Institute was founded in New Zealand in 1999 by Dr Geoff Lorigan, who at that time was Professor of Strategy and MBA Director at the University of Otago (New Zealand's oldest university), and subsequently Professor, Associate Dean and MBA Director at the University of Auckland (New Zealand's leading research university which is ranked as one of the top research universities in the world). Geoff's academic career was developed on the back of solid international business experience (including four CEO positions, two of which were in London).

2. What is the genesis of the Institute's Leadership Programmes?

The Institute's educational processes and programme design evolved from seeds disseminated by other world class programmes (including the Center for Creative Leadership in the USA, Ashridge Leadership Programme in the UK, INSEAD in Fontainebleau, London Business School in the UK, and Harvard Business School in Boston).

Geoff Lorigan has worked with his team of international colleagues, to integrate and build upon the pedagogies of these leading Business Schools to create unique First Class programmes for the niche Director/CEO/High Potential sectors of the large executive development market.

3. What is the basis of the Institute's Learning Processes?

The Institute's leadership development processes are based on experiential learning and draw upon the ancient Chinese Philosopher's adage:

“We hear and we forget
We see and we remember
We do and we understand”

Yes, the Institute's programmes are based on groundbreaking research and yes, we provide theory and 'content' in our programmes. Our focus, however, is on programme participants 'doing' rather than 'hearing' and 'seeing'. Our philosophy is 'nothing is ever learned until a behaviour is changed'.

4. What makes an Australasian Institute think it can offer a Strategic Leadership Programme for CEOs and Senior Executives with a Strategic perspective?

Australia is an open, democratic economy, located at the periphery of the world. Due to our isolated location, we have always looked outwards to the rest of the world through a global lens, using our pragmatic, non-hierarchical culture to relate to a plethora of trading partners. Over the years, we have also used our ingenuity and imagination to create innovative ways to 'punch above our weight' in order to compete in the international arena.

Being a universally welcomed, non-threatening country, we are in an excellent position to facilitate discussions amongst strategic leaders from Australia, Asia, and around the world, enabling them to see new paradigms with greater focus. The Institute is not a guru-led talk and chalk educator; on the contrary we create exceptional life-changing value by bringing together directors, top executives, and high potential managers, in 'out-of-city' reflective locations, enabling the next Big Ideas to generate ... the sort of Big Ideas that will be needed to lead through the uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity in the Asia Pacific Century that we now live in, which will require different ways of thinking, seeing and leading – particularly during the challenges of the current global financial crisis.

5. Why does Strategic Leadership Development matter and what opportunity does it offer?

Yesterday's story was about established economies with traditional ways of managing and transacting, and was underpinned by international legal contracts based on London and New York law

Tomorrow's story is about mixed economies which raise the bar for Leaders to Step Up to Strategic Leadership practices that operate on relational contracts based on High-Trust and Shared-Values.

The Institute's Leadership Programmes provide participants with the opportunity to share, discuss and debate 'where we are' and 'where we should go' and to create the Big Ideas needed to 'Lead and Succeed' in the uncertain times that lie ahead. It provides participants with the opportunity to do some fresh thinking at a strategic level and to take time out to refresh, renew, and learn how to develop a high performing Executive Leadership Team.. The focus being on developing strategy, creating a culture that empowers management, and drives performance outcomes, as well as increasing personal and inter-personal awareness.

6. Are the Institute's programmes just 'exciting events', or are they part of an overall organisation development solution?

The Institutes programmes are effective at two levels - personal development and organisation development.

For the individual, the Institute provides on-going learning and development support. Graduates of our leadership programmes are offered:

- On-going leadership and lifestyle coaching;
- Facilitation of Vision & Values, Team-Building, and Strategy development workshops;
- STEPPING | UP (First 100 day business coaching for executives stepping up to more senior roles, or on-boarding new appointments from outside the organisation);
- ISL | ^MBBA for Strategic Leaders (a general management programme that focuses on the essential business concepts that Directors, CEOs and GMs must-have);
- 2-day MASTERCLASSES (providing the vital skill-sets around strategic thinking, people management, change management, influencing skills, coaching skills)
- Career and talent management (planning ahead; building a career strategy; creating differentiation and a Personal Brand).
- A prestigious alumni network and club that provides graduates with access to ongoing support from diverse sectors as well as the opportunity to share information, ideas, insights, contacts and resources.

For the organisation, the Institute provides an integrated process of strategic leadership development, aimed at creating high performance individuals and teams; crafting competitive strategies; building new visions, values and cultures; resulting in 'best place to work', excited staff, delighted customers and very satisfied investors. It follows that the Institute's mission is to transform and align organisations rather than a narrow focus on providing a role as a prestigious CV filler.

take the step | up®