

Are you a **woman with a background** in science, engineering, or information and communications technology? Have you considered the extraordinary value you could contribute to an organisation if you became **a member of its board**? Although statistics show that women hold only 13% of board memberships, a critical element of board effectiveness is **equitable and diverse composition**. Now more than ever, skills to optimise technology strategy and its execution are in demand as boards become more responsible for technology-based core infrastructure strategy.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that even though technology issues have **major financial and risk management implications**, most organisations have not yet accepted or realised that technology issues need to be dealt with at board level. Boards of companies everywhere need members with a background in technology to complement those who have traditional financial, legal and general management expertise. **The AWISE Board Readiness Program™** is designed for women like you who would like to apply their personal and professional skills as non-executive directors.

**Learn
skills to be an
effective board
member**

The AWISE Board Readiness Program™ is designed for women like you who would like to apply their personal and professional skills as non-executive directors.

Benefits of participating in the AWISE Board Readiness Program™:

- Learn the skills that you need to become an effective board member.
- Boost your confidence in your ability to contribute at board level.
- Hear presentations from influential business leaders.
- Network with other like-minded, professional women in the technology space.
- Be mentored by some of South Australia's most successful and powerful business women.
- Meet and connect with past graduates of the AWISE Board Readiness Program™.
- Showcase your expertise and capability to many of South Australia's high-profile organisations.
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**Network
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Although completing the AWISE Board Readiness Program™ does not guarantee you a place on a board, more than 80% of graduates are now members of government, NGO and private company boards – a testament to the quality of the Program and the calibre of the graduates.



**The AWISE Board Readiness
Program™ is brought to by
WIT (SA).**

“ Over the past 10 years I have served a number of boards and committees. I understand the difference that can be made to a business, industry or general community through the decisions and advice of a board. With the AWISE Board Readiness Program™ I am now ready to take my board work to the next level. The Program far exceeded my expectations: including valuable one-on-one mentoring from a high profile board member, quality speakers, generous sponsors, enthusiastic organisers and a great group of participants. Having the opportunity to showcase our skills to South Australian leaders was the icing on the cake. I recommend the AWISE Board Readiness Program™ to others that wish to start their board careers or move to the next level in their board careers. ”

Melissa Cadzow Managing Director, Cadzow TECH Pty Ltd and board member

Support women in gaining necessary board skills

The AWISE Board Readiness Program™ was developed by Women in Technology (WIT) Queensland in 2002, and introduced into South Australia in 2007.

The AWISE Board Readiness Program™ aims to increase representation of women with technology industry backgrounds within both private and public sector board rooms. This is the fourth year the AWISE Board Readiness Program™ will be offered in South Australia and is facilitated by the industry group, Women in Innovation & Technology (SA).

Market the benefits of women in board positions

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Partner with organisations to develop women's skills

The objectives of the AWISE Board Readiness Program™ are:

- To support a selected group of women in achieving the skill set required to become highly competent and capable board members.
- To market and promote the benefits of ICT and technology women to board positions, throughout the corporate, government and not-for-profit (NFP) sectors.
- To effectively partner with other organisations involved in development of board skills to promote a common goal of promoting women to high-level positions, especially boards, and enhancing their careers through access to resources and practical training/mentoring.
- To achieve successful placements in private, public and NFP sectors.

Achieve placements in private, public and NFP sectors



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The **AWISE Board Readiness Program™** has three components: workshops; one-on-one mentoring; and an industry presentation event. Four one-day workshops will cover key topics about the roles and responsibilities of board members, accountability, corporate governance, the differences between boards in different sectors and how to nominate for boards.

You will be matched with an active board member as your mentor, and have access to that mentor for **one-to-one coaching** throughout the Program. Your **board-specific professional profile** will be developed with the help of course trainers and other Program participants. This will be included in a **graduate promotional booklet** when you complete the Program.

The AWISE Board Readiness Program™ culminates in a key **exclusive invitation-only** luncheon event during in which candidates are invited to present to and network with VIP and senior decision-makers from government and industry.

**Workshop 1
22 March**

Full day introduction including topics such as effective corporate governance, variability in boards, including speakers from not-for-profit (NFP), government and corporate boards, broad business discussions – mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property protection and financials and getting started, including what is required in your executive profile, and how the appointment process works.

**Meet your Mentor
5 April**

Mentors and program candidates are invited to an informal networking lunch event. Candidates are invited to nominate a mentor, who will remain in place for the duration of the program.

**Workshop 2
26 April**

Workshop 2 provides you with a set of skills to assist you in evaluating board opportunities and how you can be most effective within that board's culture and group dynamics.

**Workshop 3
23 May**

Workshop 3 is a full day, round table-style event where candidate profiles are distributed for review and comment by all members of the program management team and fellow candidates. Mentors will have already reviewed and provided input to this process, and will be invited to attend the session as special guests.

**Workshop 4
28 June**

Workshop 4 consists of a panel discussion featuring prominent local board members highlighting the dos and don'ts of new board members, including role-playing opportunities on real board situations for you to practice board participation.

**Industry Lunch
26 July**

This is the keynote event for the Board Readiness Program™. VIP guests from private, public and NFP sectors will be invited, and candidates will have the opportunity to introduce themselves and network with those who have the potential to influence board placements.

**Close-out Lunch
3 August**

Final close-out lunch with candidates to advise them of what happens next and what is expected of them. This is also an opportunity to thank mentors and volunteers for participating.



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