

the philosopher in the boardroom

the **good governance workshop** for nonprofit and community organisations

Imagine putting a bunch of strangers in a room for two or three hours a month then asking them to make key decisions about an organisation they know little about in a sector that's often as mysterious as it is complex...

**Sound challenging, if not illogical? It is!
Yet it's often what membership of a nonprofit board or management committee entails.**

What boards need

To function well, boards need two things: knowledge, and cohesion. The Philosopher in the Boardroom offers boards a way they can develop - or enhance - both simultaneously.

It does this by facilitating a moderated discussion of nonprofit-specific issues, using simple guidelines designed to build group harmony.

In other words, The Philosopher in the Boardroom is both practical workshop *and* a communication tool you can use again and again, long after the workshop is over.

What you'll gain

The benefits are numerous. The Philosopher in the Boardroom is about:

- ensuring board members understand the various contexts in which they operate - internally and externally
- expanding collective understanding of nonprofit-specific governance and operational issues
- learning how to pool individual know-how to meet challenges collectively
- empowering board members to ask questions when they don't understand, and
- encouraging board members to ask the hard questions, in line with their responsibilities.

About the presenter

Victoria Lister, founder of **Nonprofit Assist**, has worked with nonprofits and small-to-medium enterprises for more than 24 years and is a nonprofit and government advisory board member. She has a Master of Business in Nonprofit Studies and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Women on Boards and more - affiliations that reflect her passion for - and interest in - good governance, and good business.

How does it work?

Start by participating in a Philosopher in the Boardroom workshop. You can use the session as board induction process, professional development session or regular team-building exercise.

Then after the workshop simply agree - as a group - to adopt and implement the tools you've learnt each and every time you meet.

What does a workshop look like?

A workshop takes place over two to three hours - about as long as most board meetings. Firstly, the rules of engagement are examined. These are easy to understand and take up less than a page. Then, you'll explore a series of questions designed to present the kinds of dilemmas nonprofit board members face. These are evolved and selected by the workshop presenter according to your board and organisational needs.

The group works through each question using the rules for engagement to explore the answers. The session is moderated by the presenter, who ensures the discussion remains on track and assists with understanding the key issues and principles.

What does it cost?

Nonprofit Assist specialises in helping small-to-medium nonprofit and other like enterprises and offers a sliding, income-based scale of fees.

For organisations with a turnover of:

- \$50,000 or less, the fee is \$260
- \$50,000 - \$100,000 = \$320
- \$100,000 - \$250,000 = \$380
- \$250,000 - \$500,000 = \$440
- \$500,000 - \$1M = \$500
- \$1M - \$3M = \$560, and so on.

For bookings or more information

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Nonprofit Assist helps organisations by supporting the people who lead them. It provides peer support, governance education and strategic planning services.