



CHARTERED SECRETARIES
AUSTRALIA

Leaders in governance

Is the AGM dead?

5th Annual Governance Symposium

Wednesday 5 April

8.30am to 12.30pm
Park Hyatt, Melbourne

Thursday 6 April

8.30am to 12.30pm
Sheraton On The Park, Sydney

 4 CPD HOURS



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Breathing new life into

5th Annual Governance Symposium

Is the AGM dead?

Perhaps not, but issues such as voting confusion, high costs and low shareholder involvement are impacting on the annual general meeting's viability as well as eroding its significance. It is critical that companies develop a more effective forum for shareholders and directors to meet, exchange information and vote on performance and profit-related issues.

Change would seem long overdue; however, there is a reluctance among companies, shareholder groups and investors to invest in 'fixing something that ain't wholly broke'. The various alternatives that have been proposed are perceived by some as increasing the complexity of engaging with shareholders, adding new and additional obligations rather than simplifying the process.

It's difficult to make decisions about whether to change the current approach to AGMs without hearing all the issues and alternatives. This interactive half-day event will engage delegates in a thought-provoking discussion on this compelling and controversial topic.

Hear from an expert panel of speakers who will be challenged by a moderator as they provide their perspective and highlight relevant examples. Delegates will also be given the opportunity to ask questions so that this event is as relevant and interactive as possible.

About CSA

Chartered Secretaries Australia (CSA) is the peak professional body delivering accredited education and the most practical and authoritative training and information on governance, as well as thought leadership in the field. We are an independent, widely-respected influencer of governance thinking and behaviour in Australia and an expert commentator on issues affecting governance and legislation.

CSA will release its Discussion Paper *Expressing the voice of shareholders: direct voting as shareholder empowerment* prior to the Symposium. This paper aims to generate discussion as to how best to provide for shareholder participation in the company of the 21st century. Delegates at the Symposium will receive a copy.

Speakers

Keynote speaker in Sydney and Melbourne

Katie Lahey, Chief Executive, Business Council of Australia

Panel speakers and contributors

Melbourne

John Curry FCIS, Deputy Chairman, Australian Shareholders' Association

Professor Geof Stapledon, Managing Director, ISS Australia

Phil Burgess, Group Managing Director, Public Policy and Communications, Telstra Corporation Limited

Stephen Mayne, Founder, Crikey

John Priestley FCIS, Company Secretary, Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited

Jeremy Blackshaw, Partner, Corporate Group, Minter Ellison Lawyers

Ken Dyer, General Manager, Computershare Investor Services

Sydney

Professor Geof Stapledon, Managing Director, ISS Australia

Phil Burgess, Group Managing Director, Public Policy and Communications, Telstra Corporation Limited

Stephen Mayne, Founder, Crikey

Richard Willcock FCIS, Group Secretary & General Counsel, Westpac Banking Corporation

Sebastian Hempel, Partner, Corporate Group, Minter Ellison Lawyers

Greg Dooley, General Manager, Computershare Investor Services

Moderator

Tony Jones, presenter of ABC's *Lateline*, will be moderating the event to ensure a lively discussion.



shareholder engagement

Program

8:30 – 8:40

Welcome and introduction

Tim Sheehy, Chief Executive, Chartered Secretaries Australia

8:40 – 8:50

Moderator to set the scene and introduce speakers

Tony Jones, Presenter, Lateline

8:50 – 9:20

Keynote address: The current and future capacity of the AGM to provide for effective shareholder engagement

- Examining the purpose of AGMs in relation to a rapidly changing business environment
- Highlighting the different views and perspectives on the current situation and proposed changes
- How does this relate to corporate governance?

Katie Lahey, Chief Executive, Business Council of Australia

9:20 – 10:10

Issue 1: Examining the effectiveness of current shareholder voting mechanisms

- How effective is voting by show of hands / on a poll?
- Problems with the proxy system
- The case for direct voting
- Is legislative reform required?

Melbourne:

John Curry FCIS, Deputy Chairman, Australian Shareholders' Association

Sydney:

Professor Geof Stapledon, Managing Director, ISS Australia

10:10 – 10:40

Morning tea

10:40 – 12:20

Issue 2: Meeting the diverse communication needs of shareholders

- What information do shareholders need to be 'informed'?
- What opportunities are available with advances in technology?

Phil Burgess, Group Managing Director, Public Policy and Communications, Telstra Corporation Limited

Issue 3: Special interest groups — Where do they fit in?

- Are AGMs the appropriate forum for special interest groups?
- The legal basis for shareholder activism in light of new IR changes
- How much power should shareholders have at an AGM?

Stephen Mayne, Founder, Crikey

12:20 – 12:30

Closing comments

Tim Sheehy, Chief Executive, Chartered Secretaries Australia

12:30

Close of Symposium

CSA would like to thank and acknowledge the Symposium Working Group for their invaluable assistance with the development of the program:

Paul Baranov FCIS, Senior Legal Counsel, SFE Corporation Limited; **Greg Bateman** FCIS, General Counsel, Primary Health Care Limited; **David Cantrick-Brooks** ACIS, Company Secretary — Subsidiaries, Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited; **Duncan Glasgow** FCIS, Company Secretary and General Counsel; **Bryce Hardman** FCIS, Consultants Australia Group Pty Ltd; **Richard Jones** FCIS, Manager Compliance Group Secretariat, National Australia Bank Limited; **Lawrence Tutton** FCIS, Company Secretary

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5th Annual Governance Symposium



Online registration:

www.CSAust.com

(from the home page under Events, National Events)



By mail:

Melbourne:

CSA, Level 11, 500 Collins St, Melbourne VIC 3000

Sydney:

CSA, GPO Box 1594, Sydney NSW 2001



By fax:

Melbourne: (03) 9620 2499

Sydney: (02) 9232 7174



Enquiries:

Melbourne: Fiona D'Abico — (03) 9620 2488

Sydney: Connie Greco — (02) 9223 5666

I wish to attend:

☐ Melbourne event — 5 April

☐ Sydney event — 6 April

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other: _____

First name: _____

Surname: _____

Position: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

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Who should attend?

If you are involved in or responsible for the organisation and running of your AGM, you should attend this event.

- Company Secretaries/Assistant Company Secretaries
- Governance professionals
- Investor or media relations managers
- Communications executives
- Fund managers and their advisers
- Directors
- Legal counsel and officers
- CEOs, CFOs and other senior executives

Symposium fees

Member \$440 incl GST

Affiliate \$465 incl GST

Non-member \$520 incl GST

Includes Symposium materials and speakers' notes.

Cancellations

Should you be unable to attend this event, a substitute delegate is always welcome. An additional charge may be applicable, for example, when a non-member substitutes for a member. A full refund will be made for cancellations made in writing (letter, fax, email) up to 10 business days prior to the event. Regrettably, no refunds can be made after that time.

GST

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