

Name: Tracy Piscopo

Location: Sydney, Australia

Work role: Director, Internal Audit (Chief Audit Executive)

Professional role: Grad Cert IA Marker for the IIA–Australia

Community role: I sponsor puppies to be trained in becoming guide dogs so they can provide independence and freedom for people with sight loss.

How did you get a start in internal audit?

I was working in a role assessing university graduates' applications to become school teachers. A junior level school auditor role came up and I was encouraged to apply. 15 years later internal audit continues to ignite my curiosity. I live and breathe internal audit and have a genuine desire to add value.

What's the coronavirus drama effect on you?

Surprisingly being able to stop every now and then, be present in the moment, and enjoy the little things in life. Connecting with those who matter the most – my family and spending more time with them.

Working from office or home?

Working from home. Thankfully I have a spare room which has become my new office. Less travel allows me to wake an hour later at 6 am which I am very grateful for.

How has coronavirus changed the way you work?

I eat well and now start the day with exercise before starting work. No more rushing and making excuses that I have no time for exercise. I take less for granted and connect with my staff daily. Their wellbeing is incredibly important and it's a priority for me to ensure they have everything they need and are OK. We are fortunate to have great technology that allows us to stay connected. I am working longer hours but taking regular breaks to avoid burnout.

What risks would you say are heightened by coronavirus?

Privacy, data, fraud and corruption, cyber-security, procurement and recruitment.

What is the biggest challenge facing internal auditors?

Remaining relevant to our stakeholders when business-as-usual has been disrupted. Being persuasive with enough conviction and positioning internal audit as value-adding in a time of uncertainty.

What is your most memorable internal audit moment?

There are many memorable moments that involve great leaders in the profession who have been selfless in giving up their time to mentor me. Without them I would not have grown to be a leader myself. Completing the Graduate Certificate in Internal Auditing and giving back to the profession by marking the papers years later. Making a difference and helping stakeholders achieve their objectives is a rewarding experience and I couldn't think of a better profession to be in.

What are you working on at present?

Completing 10 internal audits, reviewing and updating the Internal Audit Manual, strengthening the Internal Audit Quality Assurance and Improvement Program, and developing the Internal Audit Stakeholder Management Program / Plan. It's great to be in a position where I can continue to deliver valuable work during these extraordinary times.

What are you reading at present?

'Phosphorescence' by Julia Baird. On the first day working from home I received a signed copy in the mail.



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What is on your desk right now?

I keep to routine and pack away each day leaving the desk clean as if I was still working in the office. At the moment I have an empty teacup, two phones (one work and one personal), note pads, pens and my laptop.

Concert or event you would most like to attend?

Sydney Symphony Orchestra at Sydney Opera House.

What would you change if you could?

More tolerance and acceptance around the world.