Certifications Testimonial Questions

1. What is your current role? Position and Organisation?

Chief Internal Auditor at Australian Taxation Office

1. What do you enjoy most about your role?

I am a curious person, so a career in Internal Audit is perfect for a person who is interested in seeing how things are done. I have worked in numerous organisations and in both public and private sector and I still enjoy seeing how things work and fit together to make an organisation effective. Most importantly by being so curious I get to assist my organisation as I get to see what can be done to make my organisation be more effective.

1. Biggest influence on your career?

Being an active member and volunteer within the IIA has had a huge impact upon my career. By being involved I have had the opportunity to network with my peers and further my own skills, both technical and non-technical, through various learning opportunities and knowledge sharing.

1. Why did you choose Internal Audit?

I think the real question is why I chose to stay in Internal Audit. Like many people I ended up in Internal Audit by chance as I saw it as a back door into a large organisation after completing my external audit articles at a small firm. It was while I was working at this large mining company that I had the opportunity to literally go from the rock face over 2kms underground to holding an ingot of platinum, while seeing every part of the process in between. It was then that I decided that this was the career for me.

1. How did certification add value to your role?

Along the way I have obtained numerous certifications relevant for my role, each one relevant and value adding in its own way. The ones I would like to highlight here are my CIA qualification, which I obtained in 1996 and my Qualification in Internal Audit Leadership (QIAL), which I obtained last year. Both have added to my technical knowledge and skills with the QIAL also testing my underlying competencies.

My CIA has provided a global accreditation that I am a professional in my field comparable to my peers across the globe. That being said, I obtained it almost 20 years ago so my QIAL has helped me to challenge myself to see if I have the right to state that I am a leader in my field by allowing me to be examined by my peers, a most daunting prospect.

1. What is the most valuable skill an internal Auditor possesses?

All Internal Auditors need numerous skills from technical, to communication to project management, etc. With that in mind I would say the most valuable skill an Internal Auditor needs is the skill of skill management. It is the ability to determine what skill is needed when and being able to apply that skill appropriately to the situation that is most valuable

1. What advice would you give prospective candidates?

Firstly do not delay in obtaining the relevant certification or qualification. More and more people are becoming certified and qualified. By delaying you risk being left behind as others overtake you in demonstrating, through certification and qualification, that they are leaders in our profession. Stop procrastinating about it and do it

Secondly do not underestimate the amount of time and effort needed. The requirements can be stringent and should not be taken lightly.

Finally the road for certification and qualification never ends. To maintain your certification and qualification you are obligated to continually prove and improve yourself through relevant CPD. This is what makes us professionals.

1. Your biggest achievement to date (professional or personal)

While I like to think I have had a few achievements along my career, the most important one to me is that while I have spent a considerable amount of time on my career and profession I am still able to call myself a Dad. Being a father is easy, being a Dad is not, however it is the most rewarding achievement of all.

1. Four words that sum you up?

Professional; Driven; Family; Geek

1. What is the best website you have visited recently (work or non-work related)?

[www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com) (What can I say, I love movies)