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Location: Sydney and Lithgow, New South Wales

Work role: Internal Audit Manager at Westfund Health Insurance

Professional role: Committee Member of the IIA Youth Leadership Committee

How did you get a start in internal audit?

I started in an internal audit role when I was working within the banking industry. I always had a curiosity and interest in internal audit. When I was offered the change to complete further studies and transition into an internal audit role, I jumped at the opportunity. Five years on, I am now managing my own internal audit department and I have never looked back.



What is the biggest challenge facing internal auditors?

I have found there is a prevalent need to be able to demonstrate the relevance of internal audit to an organisation. While there are regulator requirements within the private health insurance and banking industries which I have been involved in, internal audit moves beyond this. To create a sense of value and depict that value across the organisation creates a level of trust and merit. With the emergence of technology and 'big data' forming a focus, internal auditors also need to ensure they are aware of such advances and continue to develop the necessary skills where it is required.

What is your most memorable internal audit moment?

This came at a time which I left the banking industry. I had attended my final Audit Committee meeting and presented the last two audit reports. As I departed the Board Room, the Chair of the Board and Audit Committee both acknowledged the development of the internal audit function and my work. A standing ovation certainly made me realise that I was making a difference and created value.

What would you change if you could?

There are many things that I feel could change and if I had the capacity, I would do it in a heartbeat. However starting at a personal and team level, I draw focus to having fun and using this to balance the work to life ratio. Fun can be had anywhere but assisting to develop personally to have fun can assist with the change of having fun at work, leading to increased productivity and a positive culture.