



Name: Frederick (Freddy) Beck

Location: I work for Ipswich City Council in Queensland and live 50 kilometres from there on acreage.

Work role: I am the Chief Audit Executive that includes corrupt conduct investigations as well as being the Liaison Officer to the Crime and Corruption Commission.

Professional role: As time allows I conduct quality assessments of internal audit units and do presentations about internal audit and corrupt conduct. I have also written a white paper on the concept of integrated risk-based internal auditing.

Community role: Engage people about the Christian faith and at times I serve in church in different roles. I am also trying to grow all kinds of fruit and learning to be a grandfather.

How did you get a start in internal audit?

I could not make up my mind what I wanted to become and found this 'new thing' by reading a book from BP who my dad worked for. Was part of the first group to study internal auditing in South Africa as a formal qualification and was placed at private businesses to gain work experience while studying.

What's the coronavirus drama effect on you?

It has again reminded me of what really matters and to appreciate what we have.

It has actually provided me with the opportunity to change a few things, and to work from home with less traveling, less interruptions and being more productive.

Working from office or home?

Currently working from home full-time, but at times it is 3 to 4 days in the office.

How has coronavirus changed the way you work?

There is less time spent physically going to and from meetings by using technology better. This has also had an effect on multitasking and flexibility. I have improved my technology set up at home which has also made it easier and quicker to respond to demands outside normal hours without really working much harder or more hours, just better targeted as well as more effective and efficient.

What risks would you say are heightened by coronavirus?

For some it has forced change onto people they did not want, do not have the right equipment or environment for, and their type of work is not easily modifiable to what is required now. It has also reduced or taken away certain people's ability to earn a living without significant adjustments. It is therefore the uncertainty that I believe is the biggest problem. For some it will bring new problems such as increased cybercrime, longer term financial impacts and psychological issues.

What is the biggest challenge facing internal auditors?

Personal touch, building rapport and to read the mood in meetings is harder where you deal with problematic and emotional situations. Further to this we have to continue to give honest advice and to effectively challenge incorrect perceptions as well as workplaces overly dominated by group think and consensus management. Just because your manager or the majority says so, does not make it right.

What has the IIA-Australia been doing lately?

The IIA-Australia has had an internet presence before this happened, but the main change has been to conduct training and conferences online.

What is your most memorable internal audit moment?

Internal audit 'picked me' and I realised it suited my personality as a jack of all trades. Secondly putting to paper my views on integrated risk-based internal auditing and thirdly after years of my advice not being heeded, helping my organisation to address and come back from large scale fraud and corruption.

What are you working on at present?

Helping my organisation recover and sharing lessons learned with others as well as trying to get use of data analytics to a higher level. We are also preparing our internal audit unit for a quality assessment early next year.

What are you reading at present?

The 'Babylon Code – Solving the Bible's Greatest End-Times Mystery' by Paul McGuire and Troy Anderson.

What is on your desk right now?

Books, manuals, papers, notes, memory drives and computer equipment

Concert or event you would most like to attend?

I would have liked to have attended the rugby world cup final in Japan.

What would you change if you could?

To get people to focus on what matters. Personally I would like to be a better version of myself and have a more focussed response to life. Having said that, as an internal auditor I have sometimes learned more from difficult times and failures than success and it keeps me humble.