

Name: Kylie McRae

Location: Junee NSW

Work role: Principal in OCM's Canberra office providing internal audit, probity and consulting services.

Professional role: Director and Vice President of IIA-Australia. I also previously served on the IIA-Australia NSW Chapter Council for several years.



Community role:

I am Deputy Chair and Treasurer of Rare Ovarian Cancer Incorporated (ROC Inc), a charity set up by a close friend to raise funds for research and raise awareness regarding ovarian cancer, particularly rare ovarian cancers. I am very proud that in the three years since it commenced ROC Inc has gone from strength to strength raising both funds for research and awareness of rare ovarian cancer to such a level that, late last year, the Federal Government announced that for the first time it would contribute to funding for research.

In the past I have also been an Audit Committee Chair on two local government audit committees, on the Board of my local community branch of Bendigo Bank, and on the Board of a local not-for-profit organisation.

How did you get a start in internal audit?

I was working in external audit for the NSW Audit Office and was feeling a bit frustrated by the inability to provide advice and assistance to my clients due to the narrow mandate of external audit. So, when I had the opportunity to join the Deloitte risk services team in Sydney, I decided to make the leap to internal audit.

What's the coronavirus drama effect on you?

Other than feeling a bit housebound when we went into lockdown early last year and being somewhat stressed about getting my daughter back to Australia (she was living in the UK at the time) and changing work location, I don't think I could say it has had a huge effect on my life.

Working from office or home?

Both. Worked from home for the majority of 2020. This year however has seen a bit more of a return by clients to the office so in 2021 I have spent more time in the office or at client premises.

How has coronavirus changed the way you work?

I don't think its significantly changed it, but I think it's certainly sharpened my focus. I've always been pretty organised, but I think the pandemic has made me more so. I think working from home all the time has also made me more productive.

What risks would you say are heightened by coronavirus?

The obvious ones that come to mind are cybersecurity, business continuity and resilience, WHS and supply chain management. I think though, that whilst it has heightened risk in many businesses it has also provided others with significant opportunities if their business model was flexible enough to allow them to change. That could be mode of delivery (eg restaurants moving to takeaway), products and services (eg distilleries switching to making hand sanitiser), or even work location for employees (eg businesses downsizing office space as employees are working from home).

What is the biggest challenge facing internal auditors?

Relevance. It is vital internal auditors maintain relevance to the organisations they are providing services to. That might mean changing the nature and focus of audits, the methodology and technology used to conduct them, or both. We need to continue to find opportunities to improve the services we deliver,

What has the IIA–Australia been doing lately?

A lot! A couple of highlights:

- > Finalising and releasing the Financial Services guide which has been very well received.
- > Planning for SOPAC 2021.
- > Piloting and releasing some new training programs online.

What is your most memorable internal audit moment?

There have been a few – it's hard to pick just one!

What are you working on at present?

Reviewing a few reports, preparing a few internal audit plans and doing some probity work.

What are you reading at present?

Just finished Barack Obama's autobiography.

What is on your desk right now?

A lot more mess than there should be!

Concert or event you would most like to attend?

I love live music, so at the moment I would just love to be able to attend a live event!