

**Name:** Mily Foeng Vergel

**Location:** Perth, Western Australia

**Work role:** Senior Consultant – PwC

**Professional role:** Internal Audit

**Community role:** Member of the Youth Leadership Committee for the IIA-Australia.



### **How did you get a start in internal audit?**

I started working with a 12-month internship in the maritime transport industry in Colombia. The knowledge and experience in the industry was valued by PwC, so I went to work with them after that and formally started my career in internal audit. I have worked in a wide range of internal audit projects and clients since then across the Americas, Europe and now Australia.

### **What's the coronavirus drama effect on you?**

The first couple of weeks after the pandemic started were a bit quiet in terms of work, with many industries and clients trying to figure it out and how to continue their business under these complex circumstances. But after that short period of time it became incredibly busy.

### **Working from office or home?**

Still working from home most days of the week. The spare room at home has become my new office. Less time spent in commuting allows me to do some exercise and avoid the stress about being late if I sleep a bit more in the mornings.

### **How has coronavirus changed the way you work?**

Internal audit is now more of a business partner that organisations look to for risk and business continuity advice (now more than ever), which has shifted the role and approach of internal audit functions. This year I have seen work changing to more agile internal auditing and on-the-spot reviews, while making internal audit functions much more adaptable and flexible.

### **What is the biggest challenge facing internal auditors?**

The biggest challenge today and in the future will be staying relevant and adding value to the organisations we work with. This means being flexible on their different needs and being able to adapt to new global trends, disruptive technology and new ways of working. Also to keep challenging ourselves in our purpose and how we do things.

### **What has the IIA-Australia been doing lately?**

The IIA-Australia has been focusing on its member engagement strategy in a remote environment. This includes the move to webinars, online classroom and changing the way members are engaged.

### **What is your most memorable internal audit moment?**

A couple of years ago a fraud risk that I reported during a financial audit for one of my clients happened, demonstrating the importance of addressing action plans in a timely manner. This was a big lesson for the organisation and a milestone in my career as an internal auditor. It was one of those moments when you realise the added value of your work. It is not just about delivering a report, but thinking beyond and what else can happen today and in the future.

### **What are you working on at present?**

Developing a risk management baseline including a risk management framework, risk management policy and procedures. Also developing an organisation risk register and updating a 3-years internal audit plan.

### **What are you reading at present?**

'If you can, don't go to the doctor' by Antonio Sitges-Serra

### **What is on your desk right now?**

Probably more snacks than usual.