

Name: Mitchell Morley

Location: Sydney

Work role: Director, InConsult

Professional role: Professional Member of the IIA-Australia.

Community role: Chair of Muswellbrook Shire Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee. Independent Member of Upper Hunter Shire Council Audit Risk and Improvement Committee.



How did you get a start in internal audit?

After holding a number of senior management positions in local government, I joined InConsult and started providing a range of governance, risk management and internal audit service to our clients. Of the services we provided I most enjoyed internal audit and saw the potential opportunities that a tailored internal audit service could deliver for clients. Now I oversee and manage all of InConsult's internal audit and assurance services.

What's the coronavirus drama effect on you?

Initially a number of planned audits and projects were deferred or put on hold as our clients adapted to the situation. However, as a large proportion of our clients are government organisations or established insurance and financial services companies, these audits and projects eventually went ahead and business has remained fairly steady.

Working from office or home?

Still predominantly working from home but trying to get into the office at least one day per week.

How has coronavirus changed the way you work?

I would say around 90% of the meetings I would previously have attended in person are now happening remotely via video. There has also been a greater recognition by many of our clients that we can safely access their systems and data remotely. This has enabled us to complete a significant amount of our fieldwork offsite. I would also estimate that I have saved around 7 or 8 hours per week in travel time.

What risks would you say are heightened by coronavirus?

Obviously with more people accessing systems and data remotely and communicating electronically there has to be a heightened risk of data breaches and cyber attacks. However, most clients appear to have responded to this challenge extremely well with very few reporting any major breaches. Having a large percentage of staff working from home also presents challenges in terms of effective supervision and monitoring of productivity.

What is the biggest challenge facing internal auditors?

I think it is the same challenge that internal audit has always faced – demonstrating how internal audit can add and protect value. This will be especially challenging as organisations continue to adapt to the different challenges and work environments brought on by COVID-19.

What has the IIA-Australia been doing lately?

The biggest change I have noted is the shift to on-line engagement and education with members via webinars and on-line training, conferences and seminars which have all been necessary during COVID-19.

What is your most memorable internal audit moment?

Meet our Members

There isn't one particular moment that stands out in my mind. To me the most satisfying moments are when you hear back from clients that have implemented something you recommended in an audit report and it has made a real positive difference to the way they operate.

What are you working on at present?

For clients we have various audits happening at the moment. We are also providing probity advice and support on a number of client projects including a recent design excellence competition conducted by one client for the design of a significant new building in a suburban CBD. For InConsult we are looking at ways to improve our data analytics capability and ways to present our audit reports in a more simplified and graphical manner.

What are you reading at present?

I just finished reading 'Red Notice' by Bill Browder.

What is on your desk right now?

A big list of things to do.

Concert or event you would most like to attend?

US Masters Golf.

What would you change if you could?

Getting people to take personal responsibility for their actions and the consequences of them rather than looking for someone or something else to blame.