



**CHARTERED SECRETARIES
AUSTRALIA**

Leaders in governance

24 April 2007

Demand for good governance professionals driving education boom

Enrolments in Chartered Secretaries Australia's (CSA) *Graduate Diploma in Applied Corporate Governance* have jumped by 16 per cent since the course was introduced three years ago, with students eager to 'upskill' to meet the increasingly complex demands of governance and company secretarial roles.

"Today's governance professional is a senior decision-maker charged with advising management and the board on the right policies to be a well-run, legally compliant and socially responsible organisation", said CSA's Director, Education & Training, Dr John Nelson.

"These are very significant responsibilities demanding a high level of skill and knowledge. What the rising popularity of our Graduate Diploma demonstrates is that astute practitioners see further education as a 'must' to discharge their duties effectively," added Dr Nelson.

CSA's Graduate Diploma course has an industry-leading curriculum developed by eminent governance practitioners to give students a strong grounding in the fundamentals of best practice.

And to ensure students are armed with practical insights that are immediately relevant to their work, subjects are taught by expert guest speakers and highly regarded practitioners.

"Students have endorsed our initial view that this combination of governance expertise and input into both the subject materials and their teaching has significantly fast-tracked their learning," Dr John Nelson said.

"And the course has also been designed to accommodate the schedules of busy people. Students can choose to attend face-to-face tutorials at convenient city locations, or opt for distance learning with excellent support from our Online Learning Centre via discussion forums and chat rooms.

"The added benefit of the online mode is that students have the flexibility to study in their own time," added Dr Nelson.

MEDIA RELEASE

Dr Nelson also attributed the increase in enrolments to the fact that CSA's Graduate Diploma is Australia's only postgraduate qualification in governance that is fully accredited and internationally recognised.

The Graduate Diploma comprises six subjects covering all the essential aspects of governance practice: Applied Corporate Law, Corporate Governance, Company Secretarial Practice and Meetings, Corporate Administration, Corporate Financial Management and Corporate Accounting.

Up to two exemptions are generally available to law and business graduates, allowing them to complete the course in a shorter timeframe.

For further information contact Dr John Nelson at Chartered Secretaries Australia on (02) 9223 5744; or Viv Hardy CallidusPR on (02) 9283 4111 or 0411 208 951.

Case Study: Making the leap from lawyer to governance professional

Jane McAloon, a seasoned corporate and regulatory affairs practitioner in the public and private sector, hit the books again to expand her knowledge and application of good corporate governance practices.

Despite being a trained lawyer, with a background in policy and governance in the public sector her appointment two years ago as company secretary for AGL, caused Jane to feel that she needed to know more about the practical application of corporate governance in the increasingly complex and ever-changing regulatory environment.

Jane opted for Chartered Secretaries Australia's (CSA) *Graduate Diploma in Applied Corporate Governance*.

"With my past experience in corporate and regulatory affairs and my current position as a company secretary I felt I needed more training and practical knowledge of the applied corporate governance framework and to become more effective in my role as a governance professional.

"I felt confident that I understood the company administration side of my role but needed to have a complete understanding of corporate governance and how I could apply this practically to my role.

"The course enabled me to develop my knowledge of the theory of good governance with practical application in the corporate environment. There is an ongoing need for people in these roles to undertake training to expand our

knowledge of regulations, governance and company administration as well as keeping up to date with the latest developments.

"I've done a number of courses over the years but this one was spot-on in providing the relevant information that added immediate value to my role. The course was hard work, but definitely worth it as it added to my knowledge of the theory and practical application of good corporate governance," said Jane.

Jane has since left the Company Secretary role at AGL and taken on a new role as a Company Secretary for BHP Billiton Limited.

About Chartered Secretaries Australia

Chartered Secretaries Australia (CSA) is the peak professional body delivering accredited education and the most practical and authoritative training and information on governance, as well as thought leadership in the field.

MR/2007/4