

ASPIRANT HEAD

Masterclass Series

GOVERNANCE 101 MASTERCLASS

Block A In-person Workshop - Sydney | Monday, 18 May 2026

Block A Tutorial - Online | Monday, 15 June 2026

Block B In-person Workshop - Sydney | Friday, 7 August 2026

Block B Tutorial- Online | Friday, 21 August 2026

Block C In-person Workshop - Perth | Tuesday, 6 October 2026

Your Invitation

AHISA, in partnership with Board Matters, has developed a Masterclass Series on School Governance designed to support and strengthen governance capability within AHISA schools, by equipping future leaders.

The series comprises two full-day workshops and one half-day workshop, complemented by two one-hour online tutorials.

In-person Workshops A and B will be delivered in Sydney, NSW, while Workshop C will form part of the pre-conference program on the 6th October before the AHISA *Leading, Learning & Caring Conference* in Perth (6–9 October 2026). The two online tutorials will follow Workshops A and B, providing further consolidation of learning.

This course is available exclusively to current AHISA Aspirant Members.

Participants who successfully complete the full series will be awarded a Certificate of Completion.

Facilitators

Elizabeth Jameson AM
Founder Consultant, Board Matters

Elizabeth Jameson is an experienced board chair and non-executive director of over 30 years standing and a respected Australian governance consultant with a strong corporate/commercial legal background.



Elizabeth's current board roles are with:

Chair of leading Australian intellectual disability charity, Endeavour Foundation; board member of C&K (Creche & Kindergarten Association Limited) and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health Ltd.

Her practising director knowledge of schools comes from consulting to dozens of school boards, amongst others, over the past 30 years, drawing on her experience as a board member (1994-2006) and then chair (2006-2019) of Brisbane Girls' Grammar School. Until November 2022, Elizabeth was also Chair and President of RACQ, a \$1.5B member mutual group incorporating automobile club, roadside assistance, insurance and banking services. Apart from those two roles, her past directorships and chair roles have ranged across for-profit and not-for-profit organisations in industries as diverse as education, arts, electricity, professional services and manufacturing, amongst others.

In her background career, after almost 15 years as a corporate/commercial lawyer and partner of a national law firm, in 2002 Elizabeth founded respected national governance consultancy, Board Matters and associated legal practice, Board Matters Legal. She also spent over 17 years as a facilitator for the Australian Institute of Company Directors national and international company director programs.

Rachel Fraser Chief Financial Officer, Ozcare

Ms Rachel Fraser is an experienced finance professional with over 30 years' experience finance & commerce experience across a broad range of sectors including government, retail, manufacturing, arts, disability and aged care, not for profit and education.



Rachel is currently CFO of Ozcare, an aged care service provider across Queensland approx. 5000 employees and over \$500M revenue. Rachel is also Chair of the Risk and Compliance Committee, and member of the School Advisory Committee at St Josephs' College, Gregory Terrace (an Edmund Rice College), as well as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee and director of the Institute of Urban Indigenous Health, a community-controlled health organisation in South-East Queensland.

Her education and schools experience, in addition to her role at Gregory Terrace, comes from her position as Chief Financial Officer and Secretary to the Board of Trustees of Brisbane Girls Grammar School for seven years between 2016 and 2022, together with time spent consulting to school boards when engaged as a governance consultant between 2014-2016.

Rachel is passionate about community service and engagement and has actively engaged in school community advisory roles including but not limited to parish school boards and has a strong understanding of the nuanced environment faced by school boards, principals, school leadership teams, educators, parents, support groups and funders.

Prior roles have included finance leadership roles at Queensland Theatre Company, Flight Centre, AgForce Queensland, St Vincent de Paul Society and Centacare.

Course Outline

Block A Workshop: *The Why, What and How of School Boards*

Delivered by Elizabeth Jameson AM in a full day interactive workshop session

This Block focuses on **legal and governance models** for schools, **board dynamics** and **board/chair/principal relationships** as follows:

- a) An overview of different models and legal frameworks for schools and school boards, exploring the difference for the principal between serving to a fiduciary board of a standalone school and those within groups or systems operating with an advisory board and a higher level fiduciary board, CEO or other structure;
- b) Examine community expectations and charitable not-for-profit governance standards and obligations imposed on schools, and so their boards, as registered charities;
- c) Explore internal board dynamics, board/principal dynamics, and the all-important matter of building a healthy relationship between board chair and principal ('friendly but not friends');
- d) Study the interactive St Agonies Case Study and finish with an interactive panel discussion of chairs and principals; and

- e) Leave with a group exercise to complete after the workshop – reviewing and comparing different school systems of which the participants are a part and how it impacts on the principal's role.

Block A Online Tutorial:

Facilitated by Elizabeth Jameson AM

This is a follow up one-hour web-based tutorial held four weeks after the completion of Block A workshop to review and discuss the outcomes of the team activity that follows Block A. Participants submit the completed written group exercise to the facilitator prior to the tutorial.

Block B Workshop: *Getting Under the Bonnet: Financial Reporting and Business Case Skills for Heads*

Delivered by Elizabeth Jameson AM & Rachel Fraser in a full day interactive workshop session

This Block focuses on **financial governance skills, board paper preparation** and **business case development** as follows:

- a) Focus on developing financial skills for potential school principals to enable them to confidently discharge their responsibilities reporting to the board in relation to the school's finance function. This includes supporting the CFO/Business Manager and interacting in a meaningful way with the school board, its finance committee and chair;
- b) Develop the necessary analytical and persuasive writing skills needed for reporting to boards and developing business cases and papers for key board decisions;
- c) Explore how to strengthen the key relationships of principal/chair and CFO/finance committee chair for success as a principal through an interactive panel discussion incorporating an experienced board and finance committee chair and school CFO; and
- d) Leave with a group exercise to complete in teams after the workshop – developing a business case for a St Agonies major building program – with discussion about the responsible use of AI to assist in the task and the limitations on its use.

Block B Online Tutorial:

Facilitated by Elizabeth Jameson AM

This is a follow up one-hour web-based tutorial held two weeks after the completion of Block B workshop to discuss what is required for completion of the Block B team activity that will be presented in Block C.

Block C Workshop: *Bringing it all Together*

Delivered by Elizabeth Jameson AM & Rachel Fraser in a half day interactive workshop session

This Block brings the program to a conclusion:

- a) Each group is placed into an interactive St Agonies board meeting environment, in which they present their business case to the members of the St Agonies

board, comprising a blend of fellow program participants and the facilitation team/guest panellists;

- b) Explore how AI can enhance the development of a business case and other school reporting and the dangers inherent in it that should guide the limitations on its use in this context;
 - c) Engage in a plenary discussion about the key take-outs from the program and follow up on matters for further exploration by participants; and
 - d) Focus on the areas requiring further skills and knowledge development for individual participants as identified during the program.
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Registration

AHISA Aspirant Member Registration: *\$750.00 per person (incl. GST) + credit card fees*

Registrations will close Friday, 8 May 2026

[Register online today](#)

BY REGISTERING FOR THIS EVENT YOU ARE SIGNING UP TO ATTEND ALL SESSIONS, BOTH IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

Venues

Monday 18 May 2026

Tumbalong Room
Novotel Sydney Darling Square
17 Little Pier Street
Darling Harbour NSW 2000

Monday 15 June 2026

Online – Webinar link will be sent to all registered delegates

Friday 7 August 2026

Tumbalong Room
Novotel Sydney Darling Square
17 Little Pier Street
Darling Harbour NSW 2000

Friday 21 August 2026

Online – Webinar link will be sent to all registered delegates

Tuesday 6 October 2026

Crown Ballroom 3A
Crown Towers Perth
Great Eastern Highway
Burswood, WA 6100

Travel & Accommodation

Delegates are responsible for their own travel and accommodation to all in person workshops.

Sydney accommodation

The Novotel Sydney Darling Square have offered discounted rates for participants to stay onsite at the conference venue. Please use the links below to book your accommodation dates:

May: [Accommodation booking link for May Governance 101 Masterclass](#)

August: [Accommodation booking link for August Governance 101 Masterclass](#)

Perth accommodation:

Accommodation rates have been secured at the three Crown properties. Booking and payments can be made via the hotel booking links below:

[Crown Towers](#)

[Crown Metropol](#)

[Crown Promenade](#)

Dress Code

Smart casual (jeans acceptable) is encouraged for all in-person workshops.

Questions

Contact Nicola Hart, AHISA Event Manager

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P: 02 6247 7300

M: 0433 314 598

Testimonials

This course is offered by AHISA every two years. Here's what previous participants had to say:

"I have absolutely loved every moment of this course, and am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to participate."

- **2022 participant**

"An outstanding masterclass, that provides wonderful insight into the complex demands of governance, finance, and strategic planning that Principals will be faced with. Expertly facilitated too."

- **2024 participant, Bo Power, Former Aspirant member**

Program

Block A Workshop

PROGRAM – Monday 18 May 2026

9.00am	Registration Arrival refreshments available
9.15am	Welcome & Introduction
9.30am	Block A Workshop <i>The Why, What and How of School Boards</i>
10.45am	Morning Tea
11.15am	Sessions recommence
12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Sessions recommence
3.45pm	Closing
4.00pm	Masterclass concludes

Block A Tutorial

PROGRAM – Monday 15 June 2025

4:00pm	Welcome & Introduction
5:00pm	Online tutorial concludes

Block B Workshop

PROGRAM – Friday 7 August 2026

9.00am	Registration Arrival refreshments available
9.15am	Welcome & Introduction
9.30am	Block B Workshop <i>Getting Under the Bonnet: Financial, Reporting and Business Case Skills for Heads</i>
10.45am	Morning Tea
11.15am	Sessions recommence
12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Sessions recommence
3.45pm	Closing
4.00pm	Masterclass concludes

Block B Tutorial

PROGRAM – Friday 21 August 2026

4:00pm	Welcome & Introduction
5:00pm	Online tutorial conclude

Block C Workshop

PROGRAM – Tuesday 6 October 2026

11.30am	Registration Arrival refreshments available
12.00pm	Welcome & Introduction
12.10pm	Block C Workshop <i>Bringing it all Together</i>
2.30pm	Afternoon Tea
3.00pm	Sessions recommence
4.45pm	Closing
5:00pm	Masterclass concludes

5.00pm-6.00pm Aspirant Happy Hour drinks



2026 Leading, Learning & Caring Conference

pre-conference program | Tuesday 6 October
conference program | Wednesday 7 to Friday 9 October
Crown Towers, Perth WA