

STRATEGIC THINKING & ADVANCED PROBLEM SOLVING WORKSHOP

Apply a structured systems thinking approach to analysing problems and formulating strategy



11 - 12
OCTOBER

- ▶ Expanding your perspective on opportunities and deepen your understanding of strategic issues
- ▶ Harnessing stakeholder engagement principles to work collaboratively on organisational issues
- ▶ Understanding your role as a leader in empowering others to solve problems
- ▶ Overcoming common roadblocks to strategic thinking and problem solving

EXPERT FACILITATOR



Michael Collins
High Potential Officer
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ABOUT THE EVENT

Business managers and leaders are facing very challenging times, the current landscape is characterised by significant uncertainty, complexity and changing customer needs and expectations. This environment is testing workforce skills and organisational capacity. Understanding how to plan and execute complex strategies to meet the goals of your organisation is critical for both career and business success.

Strategic thinking brings the big picture into focus. It helps to make visible the connections between multiple causes, stakeholders and interdependencies that are at play within many of the 'wicked problems' that leaders face. It is the responsibility of leaders to recognise critical trends and patterns in their internal and external environments shaping the future of their organisations.

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DAY ONE

Strategic thinking and problem solving

- ▶ How the current strategic context is shaping organisations
- ▶ Senior leadership and the importance of strategic thinking and problem solving
- ▶ Responding to emerging strategic challenges in 2022 and beyond

Strategic thinking skills and tools

- ▶ The cognitive principles, tools and strategies essential to strategic thinking
- ▶ Common limitations and challenges to strategic thinking
- ▶ Models, tools and tactics to shape strategic thinking

Advanced problem solving for senior leaders

- ▶ How to objectively collect and evaluate evidence
- ▶ Exploring reason-based approaches to problem solving
- ▶ Applying rational and creative problem solving tools and techniques to address strategic issues

Leading and influencing others on strategic issues

- ▶ Effectively engaging stakeholders to understand the problem and identifying potential solutions
- ▶ Integrating multi-stakeholder perspectives and facilitating shared understanding
- ▶ Resolving conflict and disagreement in group problem solving

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DAY TWO

Definition: Understanding the problem

- Reaching agreement on the problem: Defining key variables, known causes, structure, scope, stakeholder impact, interdependencies and constraints
- Evaluating problem impacts
- Developing solution criteria and the problem solving approach

Analysis: Identifying and evaluating possible solutions

- Generating and evaluate solutions based on feasibility, impact and risk
- Taking stock of required skills, knowledge and resources to resolve the problem or realise the opportunity
- Leadership, management, planning and team deployment considerations

Implementation: from strategy to results

- Testing solutions: prototypes, pilots, simulations
- Adopting a systematic approach to solution implementation
- Building engagement and embedding change

Overcoming roadblocks to strategic thinking and problem solving

- Cognitive biases, ideological paradigms and group-based
- The inherently challenging nature of 'wicked problems'
- Cultivating your skills and maintaining your edge as a strategic thinker and problem solver

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YOUR FACILITATOR

Michael Collins is one of the region's leading talent, leadership and change experts with 25 years of experience in roles spanning Australia, New Zealand and Asia. He is a trusted adviser, thought leader and seasoned practitioner in the field of leadership assessment and development, in particular, he specialises in identifying and discovering high potential leaders, differentiating leadership talent, neuropsychology and organisational change.

Michael has held a number of executive-level appointments in the Australian Defence Force, with his final appointment as a Company Commander (Major) with the elite Australian Parachute Battalion. He later moved into the FMCG (fast-moving consumer goods) sector, working with Coca-Cola Amatil as Learning and Development Manager, Oceania. Following this, he held a range of organisational and capability development roles including capability development manager for the leading Australian financial services company AMP, before moving into management consulting specialising in the field of talent management and leadership.



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WHAT OUR DELEGATES ARE SAYING



“The training was well paced with a good balance of listening and participation. It was informative and interactive, weaving theory with a practical approach.

Facilitator was knowledgeable and friendly and presented the course content very well. Would recommend this to colleagues in similar positions.”

