INSTITUTE OF
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
AUSTRALIA

IPAA
ACT

ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERSHIP KIT

BUILD YOUR CONNECTIONS
CHALLENGE YOUR THINKING

WELCOME

Welcome to the Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA) ACT.
We are here to provide you a platform for debate and discussion through thought leadership, events, and networking opportunities. We also aim to keep you ahead of the curve so you can deliver policy that makes a difference, implement programs that have impact, and play your part in building a better future for Australia.

An IPAA ACT organisational membership is an investment in your staff, your organisation, and the future of public administration.

An organisational membership brings you:

- Programs that inspire contemporary thinking and professional growth through research and best practice.
- Tiered development opportunities that enhance and build the capability of your staff at different stages in their careers.
- A platform for representatives from your organisation to share knowledge across the sector.
- Connections across the public sector delivering a whole of government context and the opportunity to grow networks.

"IPAA is a very valuable service and I encourage my staff to attend events and professional development opportunities."

IPAA ACT MEMBERSHIP

Collectively, our membership base represents over 240,000 professionals in public administration, with our organisational members including all current Australian government departments and a large number of agencies, the ACT public service, private sector organisations, and academia.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND CONTACT

In this kit, you will find information about your membership including:

- Membership benefits and getting involved
- IPAA overview
- IPAA ACT leadership
- Programs and events
- Capability programs
- Spirit of Service Awards
- IPAA communication channels

For questions regarding membership benefits, opportunities, fees and payments, contact membership@act.ipaa.org.au or 02 6154 9800

MEMBER BENEFITS SNAPSHOT

EXCLUSIVE, ORGANISATIONAL MEMBER BENEFITS

- **Complimentary or heavily discounted registrations** to IPAA ACT events including our flagship Secretary Series, Hypothetical, Annual Address to the APS, annual orations, Future Leaders Series, Executive Assistant Series, specialist events and programs, and much more.
- Invitations to participate in our capability programs such as the **Future Leaders Program**, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders **Emerging Leadership program and Future Ready Public Sector Leadership.**
- Invitations for Band 1 and equivalent leaders to attend our new exclusive SES program, **Senior Executive Leadership Conversations**. Build skills with our short-form training courses through **IPAA Advantage.**
- Heavily discounted registrations to **IPAA National events.**
- Exclusive opportunity to **nominate for IPAA ACT's Spirit of Service Awards** to acknowledge outstanding work in your agency, share your achievements, and inspire others across the sector.
- Avenues to give back to the sector, collaborate, and expand peer networks by **joining an IPAA committee or community of practice.**
- **Complimentary online access** to new papers and the entire back catalogue of iPAA's journal of record on public administration, public management, and public policy in Australia - **the Australian Journal of Public Administration.**
- **Expand your knowledge of public administration and networks across Australia** through participation in events, seminars, and conferences.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

The inclusion of fully digital and hybrid events in our event programming has opened up opportunities for staff from across the country to engage and learn with us, including access to:

- ***Work with Purpose*** podcast series exploring the important role of the public sector in serving Australia's communities and tackling contemporary challenges.
- **Resource library** of past event and conference recordings and transcripts.
- **Monthly editions of IPAA Connect and regular events newsletters** delivering curated content and resources for the public sector.

MEMBERSHIP TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Membership terms and conditions can be found here.

GET INVOLVED

HERE ARE SOME WAYS ON HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED WITH US:

ATTEND OUR EVENTS

Sign up to receive our event invitations and newsletters.

BUILD YOUR CAPABILITY

Participate in capability programs such as our Future Leaders Program. Discuss and debate current and emerging challenges, broaden your perspectives of the public service, and network with your peers across the public sector.

HONE YOUR EXPERTISE

Attend a SES masterclass to strengthen your skills and learn from leading local and global experts.

"As well as personal development, IPAA provides an excellent opportunity to maintain and grow networks."

SUGGEST A SPEAKER

Contribute relevant insights for public sector professionals by suggesting a speaker or topic for an IPAA event or webinar.

CELEBRATE PUBLIC SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Recognise outstanding public sector initiatives in IPAA ACT's *Spirit of Service Awards.*

KEEPING YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT

To keep your organisation and staff informed of events and programs relevant to their specific roles, it is important that you provide us with appropriate contact details within your organisation.

Organisational member key contacts are usually from the executive office and/or the communications or HR teams. We also encourage you to provide as many staff contacts as appropriate for inclusion on event and communication distribution lists. If staff leave your organisation, please provide us with replacements by emailing membership@act.ipaa.org.au.

ABOUT IPAA

IPAA ACT is the professional body promoting excellence and professionalism in public administration.

We are a non-profit and non-partisan organisation working with the public sector, private sector, academia and other institutions to provide members with a platform for debate and discussion about improving and striving for excellence in public administration in Australia.

Read our Strategic Plan 2025-2028 which outlines our current priorities.

LEADERSHIP

IPAA ACT has a two-tier governance structure, including a board and council. The board of directors is the governing body of IPAA ACT and is elected by the council. The council represents our member base and is elected by members every three years. The board and council are led by our President, Tony Cook PSM.

"Working in a portfolio agency, IPAA is critical to understanding the whole of government context."

IPAA'S NATIONAL FOOTPRINT

IPAA ACT is part of a federated national body which was formed on 1 January 1980. Andrew Metcalfe AO is IPAA's national president. He leads a national council made up of representatives of the eight IPAA divisions and a national executive. More information on IPAA's national activities is available on the IPAA national website.

THE IPAA TEAM

The IPAA ACT team is based in Barton and led by Chief Executive Officer, Kate Driver. Meet Kate and the team here.

LEADERSHIP

IPAA ACT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair and President

Tony Cook PSM
Secretary
Department of Education

Deputy President

Justine Greig
Deputy Secretary, Defence People
Department of Defence

Deputy President

Letitia Hope
Deputy Secretary
Department of Social Services

Board member

Mark Harrison
Managing Director
Sententia Consulting

Board member

Patrick Hetherington
Interim Coordinator-General
National Emergency
Management Agency

Board member

Kathy Hilyard
Co-founder
Centre for Collective Leadership

Company Secretary

Jaala Hinchcliffe
Secretary
Department of Parliamentary Services

Kate Driver
IPAA ACT Chief Executive Officer
IPAA Council Public Officer (ex officio)

We are a non-profit and non-partisan organisation. We work in partnership with the public sector, private sector, academia, and other institutions to provide a platform for debate and discussion on public administration in Australia, focused on improvement and professional excellence.

IPAA ACT COUNCIL

IPAA ACT is supported by an elected council of members. The current council was appointed on 28 November 2024 for the term 2024-2027. The council represents the members of IPAA ACT under the leadership of its president, Tony Cook PSM.

The council provides strategic advice on public administration trends, emerging risks and opportunities, and contemporary practice, while supporting IPAA ACT's strategic direction. The council has a formal role in appointing the president, deputy presidents and board.

IPAA ACT President and Board Member

Tony Cook PSM
Secretary
Department of Education

Dr Rachel Bacon
Senior public sector leader

Chris Birrer
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Payments & Integrity Group, Services Australia

Leanne Blackley
Chief Operating Officer
Comcare

Professor Deborah Blackman
Associate Dean Life Long Learning
Professor in Public Sector Management
Strategy Public Service Research Group, UNSW Canberra

Jasna Blackwell CPHR
Chief People Officer, Chief Risk Officer, First Assistant Secretary People, Parliamentary and Communications Division
Department of Education

Maree Bridger
Senior public sector leader

Sam Chard PSM GIACD
Head of Division Business Grants Hub
Department of Industry, Science and Resources

Dr Jill Charker
Deputy Coordinator General
Disaster Resilience and Recovery
National Emergency Management Agency

Jason Duarte
IPAA individual members representative
Head of Public Sector, Westpac

Anna Faithfull
Deputy Secretary Skills and Training Group
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

Chris Fechner
Chief Executive Officer
Digital Transformation Agency

IPAA ACT COUNCIL

Jarrod Howard
Deputy Commissioner, Strategy and Capability Group
Department of Home Affairs | Australian Border Force

Professor Janine O'Flynn
IPAA ACT Representative to the IPAA National Council
Director, ANU Crawford School of Public Policy

John Love
Group Manager, Corporate
National Indigenous Australian Agency

Andrew Kefford PSM
Deputy Secretary
Policy and Programs
Department of Veterans' Affairs

David Mackay
Deputy Secretary for Regions, Cities, and Territories
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Kelly Pearce
IPAA individual members representative
Retired, former senior executive
Department of Education

Robert Wright
Deputy Director General, Office of Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
ACT Government

GOVERNANCE

IPAA ACT CONSTITUTION, AGM, AND MEMBER'S ENTITLEMENT TO VOTE

The Institute of Public Administration Australia (ACT) Limited is a registered company under the Corporations Act 2001 and is bound by a constitution, which was last updated in October 2021.

The constitution is available here.

IPAA ACT's Annual General Meeting is held annually in the second half of the calendar year. Notification of upcoming AGMs are distributed to heads and relevant contacts of member organisations 21 days prior to the meeting. Members are entitled to vote at the AGM, and special general meetings as they are called.

Further details about member voting entitlements and the voting process can be found in the constitution.

PARTNERS

IPAA ACT thanks our corporate partners, whose support has helped to enrich our program and offer a broader range of services.

Tier 1 corporate partners

HAYS Working for your tomorrow

Gartner MinterEllison

Tier 2 corporate partners

Sententia CONSULTING

HOLDING REDLICH

BDO

In-kind partners

bellchambers barrett

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

IPAA ACT works in partnership with the public sector, the private sector, academia and other institutions, to provide a platform for debate and discussion of issues of vital importance to public administration. Our suite of programs and events includes a podcast series, flagship events, special event series, on demand content, and conferences.

FLAGSHIP EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT

Our annual International Women's Day event recognises the extraordinary contribution that women make to the public sector.

HELEN WILLIAMS ORATION

IPAA divisions host an oration as part of their annual calendar to honour an individual and their contributions to public administration. In 2018, IPAA ACT established the Helen Williams Oration in honour of Helen Williams AC, the first woman to be appointed secretary of an Australian government department.

ADDRESS TO THE AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SERVICE

The secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet reflects on the year that was at this annual IPAA event.

HYPOTHETICAL

Where a plausible fictional scenario brings public sector leaders, industry experts and community representatives together to tackle a complex challenge live. Free from real agencies, policies or active issues, participants can move beyond prepared positions, test difficult ideas and share candid, practical lessons without risking their interests.

EVENT SERIES

SECRETARY SERIES

IPAA ACT has the privilege to work with key leaders across the public sector. The Secretary Series provides a platform for secretaries and agency heads to reflect on their portfolio, identify challenges, and discuss issues of relevance to the public sector.

FUTURE LEADERS SERIES

The Future Leaders series is a professional development opportunity for emerging leaders to grow their networks and to learn from and engage with senior leaders and peers.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT SERIES

The Executive Assistant or EA Series is a great opportunity for EAs across the public and private sectors to come together, share experiences and insights, and build their capability and networks.

"IPAA events give me a broader perspective of the APS and motivate me in my work through sharing success stories and challenges."

CAPABILITY

Learn more about our capability programs on the IPAA website or contact us at capability@act.ipaa.org.au or (02) 6154 9800.

FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAM

The Future Leaders Program offers upcoming leaders a chance to explore new challenges, broaden their understanding of the public service, and connect with peers across sectors. The program features interactive events including panel discussions, roundtables, and networking with SES, Future Leaders alumni, and fellow participants. It's not a training course, but a curated series of experiences. Open to organisational members of IPAA ACT, the program targets APS6 to EL1 levels or equivalent in the private sector or academia. Organisational members are allocated a limited number of places per program.

SES MASTERCLASSES

Senior Executive Leadership Conversations is a six-session program for SES Band 1 and equivalent leaders from across the public sector in the ACT. The program is framed around challenges facing public administration and the ongoing attributes and mindset required for excellence as a leader. Each of the six sessions focuses on the craft of leading in a complex, volatile environment where expertise alone will not suffice, but harnessing the experience of colleagues, teams, and stakeholders will be increasingly necessary.

EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

This new program is designed for emerging First Nations leaders working in the Commonwealth and ACT public sector. It aims to emphasise Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait leadership voices and lived experiences and provide a brave space to build our participants' resilience and authentic leadership brand.

FUTURE-READY PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

This six-session series is for public sector leaders looking to enhance their skills and insights in a constantly evolving environment. From scenario planning to stakeholder engagement, each session emphasises practical strategies for developing resilience and forward-thinking approaches. Participants will cultivate foresight skills, strengthen relationships, and learn to lead change effectively and ethically.

IPAA ADVANTAGE

IPAA Advantage is designed to support and steward public sector careers by strengthening capability, professionalism and ethical leadership. The program provides practical, forward-looking learning experiences that help public purpose professionals remain adaptable, confident and effective in a changing operating environment.

SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARDS

IPAA ACT's ***Spirit of Service Awards*** recognise public sector initiatives that drive positive change for the Australian community, celebrating leadership and excellence in the contemporary public sector.

The awards are open to all IPAA ACT members from Commonwealth and ACT public sector agencies. Cross-jurisdictional initiatives are encouraged, provided the lead organisation is an IPAA ACT member and is from the Commonwealth or ACT public service.

The four award categories are:

COLLABORATION AWARD
Recognising cross-agency and/or cross-jurisdiction initiatives where organisations have collaborated to deliver superior outcomes.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD
Recognising initiatives where communities have been deliberately engaged in novel ways and/or have played a key role in designing and delivering superior services, regulations and policies that positively impact the quality of community life.

BREAKTHROUGH AWARD
Recognising initiatives that develop and/or apply novel and ingenious analyses, products, processes, services, technologies and/ or management practices to create better outcomes for beneficiaries. Breakthroughs also include continuous improvement and repurposing of existing practices.

LEARNING AWARD
Recognising initiatives that deliberately engage with risk and potential failure to build public administration practice to address complex problems.

One discretionary award is also offered — the **Kerry Kennedy Award**. This award celebrates small organisations or agencies that, despite limited resources, achieve excellence through collaboration and out-of-the-box thinking. This award is in honour of the late Kerry Kennedy for his contributions to IPAA ACT and its past award programs.

More recently, we have launched the **People's Choice Award.** This award is decided by peer voting across the public sector, allowing colleagues to recognise and celebrate each other's achievements. The award reflects the collaboration, respect and continuous improvement that sit at the heart of public service.

"There is encouraging and inspiring work happening right across the public sector and behind that work is teams of people who deserve to have their work called out and recognised."

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

IPAA ACT regularly communicates with members via email. Members can choose to receive the following communications:

EVENT UPDATES

Notifications of upcoming or recently released events, programs, and webinars delivered or supported by IPAA ACT.

IPAA CONNECT

Our monthly newsletter highlights past, current, and future IPAA events and activities, along with relevant public sector news and resources.

You can subscribe to our email communications using this form. To add multiple staff members to our email distribution list, contact membership@act.ipaa.org.au.

WEBSITES

The IPAA ACT website provides regularly updated information on events, news, initiatives, and multimedia content.

IPAA's national website provides regularly updated information on IPAA events and training opportunities across Australia. It also has a range of freely available content including news, features and insights, as well as the history of IPAA and the national council.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on our social media channels for more updates:

ipaa-act ipaa_act

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IPAA ACT primarily works from Ngunnawal Country. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of that land and any families with a connection to the ACT and surrounds. We also acknowledge the many unceded lands that our members work on, and engage with us from, across Australia. We pay our respect to the Elders of those Countries both past and present. We work to support future Elders who will follow in those footsteps and commit to work through respect, curiosity and in a spirit of reconciliation to support both current and future Elders in their public sector careers.

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