



Better Business Governance (BBG)

is a proven training and mentoring program in governance for board directors, company secretaries and CEOs in Papua New Guinea.

The BBG Program is unique, in that it couples intensive governance training with one-on-one mentoring by experienced Australian company directors and secretaries.

Participants gain a thorough understanding of basic legal, accounting and regulatory principles governing directors, boards and managers, as well as the requirements of specific national companies' acts.



**AUSTRALIAN
BUSINESS VOLUNTEERS**

Mission

To strengthen business in communities to alleviate poverty.

Values

Altruism is the driving force behind everything we do.

Supporting volunteers to contribute to strong development outcomes.

Better Business Governance

Essential training & mentoring
for Company Directors

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**AUSTRALIAN
BUSINESS VOLUNTEERS**

ABV began in 1981 when the Australian Government sought to use the business skills and experience of newly retired Australian executives. Inspired by the success of a model created in the United States, a similar scheme developed in Australia.

Small and medium sized businesses in our closest developing countries became our partners and retired Australian executives agreed to visit these countries and provide practical business advice and guidance. This cost effective form of skills transfer was initially known as the Australian Executive Service Overseas Program (AESOP).

AESOP continued to grow in size and reputation. To reflect our focus on assisting the private sector, AESOP was changed to Australian Business Volunteers in 2003. The underpinning principle for all our work is that locally developed business provides an effective model for sustained community development, alleviating poverty by contributing to economic growth, job creation, and people's livelihoods and incomes.



About BBG

The BBG course covers the principles of good corporate governance, the structure of organisations, the duties of directors and managers, and the collective duties of a board. These duties require insight into the company's financial situation and the operation of a board. The course is designed to help you to be a responsible and competent director on a board or a senior manager.

History

Since 1996 ABV has run more than 30 BBG courses in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. The course was the result of 24 years' working with local businesses and 12 years' experience in conducting governance programs in the Pacific.

Volunteer facilitators

ABV BBG facilitators are governance experts with a minimum of 10 years' experience. They are typically mid-career to early retirement and most have previously worked in Papua New Guinea or undertaken multiple volunteer assignments in the Pacific, therefore understand the sensitivities of cross-cultural communication. Volunteering their time, the facilitators are committed to building and supporting institutions in Papua New Guinea, and to ABV's value of altruism.

Participants

The course applies to all manner of organisations – sole traders, partnerships, private companies, not-for-profit entities, community or charitable organisations, government statutory authorities and public institutions.

Training and mentoring

The course consists of a three-day workshop, which is followed by one to two weeks of mentoring in the participants' companies or institutions. The one-on-one mentoring sessions allow participants to work with a course facilitator on specific governance issues in their organisations.

BBG topics

The course covers:

- The principles of good governance
- Selection of board of directors and considerations when joining a board
- Roles within organisations
- Legal responsibilities of directors
- Role of the board, including strategic planning and monitoring performance
- Conducting board meetings
- Assessing financial health and budget forecasting

Tailored content

BBG is a flexible course that can be adapted to ensure its relevance to local businesses, laws, experience and conditions. ABV does this in several ways:

- Developing a country or company specific BBG tool box, which includes local or specific documentation, cases studies and other aids;
- Inviting local presenters to provide information on local governance practices and laws and peer support;
- Collecting preliminary information about experience and education of the participants for presenters to tailor the course to meet their needs.

Participants are provided with updated general course materials and a training manual for future reference.



Testimonials

"The course was very useful to me because it brought out the finer points of directors' duties, and reinforced a number of important principles."
Vava'u, Tonga

"Very well presented, participatory, easy to understand. Facilitators were very professional and experienced persons and very supportive."
Suva, Fiji

It is important that legal responsibilities are understood as many Solomon Islanders take Directorships for granted and take up for other motives."
Auki, Solomon Islands

"Good methods, explanations, introduction, discussions and exercises."
Honiara, Solomon Islands

"The environment created by facilitators gave plenty of opportunities to participants to gain information, expand on issues not understood and share experiences. Examples given fit very well to the Fiji context."
Nadi, Fiji

"Recommend this course to other SOE Boards and Management. I'm fully satisfied with the whole content of the course. I wish that every Board member could attend this type of training."
Honiara, Solomon Islands