

Overview of our surveys

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Boards Insync is the specialist division of Insync Surveys that delivers board survey services.

Boards Insync has six world class surveys of special interest to boards which are available globally and can be tailored to meet each organisation's requirements.

Board Effectiveness Survey - benchmarks the effectiveness of boards in the public, private, government and not-for-profit sectors

Board Risk Survey - measures the effectiveness of a board in dealing with its risk responsibilities

Risk Committee Effectiveness Surveys - measures the effectiveness of a board or a management risk committee in dealing with its risk responsibilities.

Audit Committee Effectiveness Survey - benchmarks the effectiveness of an audit committee against other organisations

Director 360 Survey - also known as a director-peer survey, it measures the effectiveness of individual directors in the context of their role on a board

Employee Risk Culture Survey - measures an organisation's risk culture, both overall and in the chosen segment



Why conduct a board survey?

“ It is important that a review of a board, a director, or a committee’s effectiveness isn’t purely seen as a compliance or box ticking exercise, but rather one that can contribute to enhancing board performance. ”

With the Global Financial Crisis and the increasing call for improved corporate governance and board accountability, right now is one of the most important times to carry out one or more comprehensive board surveys with a view to enhance your effectiveness.

Boards can demonstrate their leadership, their commitment to good corporate governance and accountability to stakeholders by conducting an independent review of the board, their directors and committees.

Most people understand the importance and benefits of a regular medical check up to identify any risks to their health and to determine whether their bodies are functioning to their optimal capacity.

In a similar way, Boards Insync recommends the regular use of its surveys to determine any risks to the “health” of the board or committees and the extent to which they are functioning to their optimal capacity.

It is important that a review of a board, a director, or a committee’s effectiveness isn’t purely seen as a compliance or box ticking exercise, but rather one that can contribute to enhancing board performance.

Boards Insync’s board surveys have been completed by numerous organisations ranging from large publicly listed organisations, to private, government and not-for-profit entities.

Each of our board surveys can be completed separately or in conjunction with a process that includes interviews with directors and management, reviews of charters, agendas, board or committee papers, minutes and the like. We have highly experienced board and research specialists that are involved in this important process.

The report that is prepared following the completion of each survey is designed to measure the current extent of effectiveness and to highlight improvement initiatives.

A sample of each comprehensive report is included on our website.

Limitations of internal self administered surveys

Many boards that conduct a board survey use their own internal self administered survey to assess their effectiveness. Some of the limitations of using such surveys, however, include:

- they are rarely comprehensive in the issues they address
- they do not promote candour as respondent anonymity isn’t protected
- the survey statements are often inappropriately worded and untested
- without benchmarking or an appropriate gap analysis, the results are often incorrectly interpreted.
- the survey process can be prone to bias and often lacks statistical rigour

Main benefits of our board surveys

Our six world class surveys are unobtrusive, relevant, rigorous and insightful.

Unobtrusive

- completed online
- takes respondents less than 30 minutes

Rigorous

- systematic survey process removes bias and emotion
- covers over 75 separate matters (the Director-Peer Survey is limited to 24 matters)
- survey statements embed good practice
- candour is encouraged by protecting the anonymity of respondents
- methodically developed and reviewed by experienced directors and acknowledged global experts

Relevant

- adjusted appropriately for profit, not-for-profit and government organisations
- are customised to meet each organisation's requirements

Insightful

- uses an "importance" and "performance" response rating system or benchmarking against other organisations
- reporting of "gaps" and benchmarking enables easy prioritisation of issues
- written responses to a few questions add context and improve the usability of the report
- survey statements and reports are designed to guide the next steps that can be taken
- most of our surveys are integrated to provide additional insights when used together.

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Our survey process

Boards Insync has a very unobtrusive and efficient survey process. The main steps in our five stage process are as follows:

Stage 1 - Understand requirements

Boards Insync will ensure it understands your requirements, including in relation to any other surveys or review process that will be implemented during the same period. Your reporting and debriefing requirements and preferred timing thereof will be confirmed.

Stage 2 - Customise

Your board survey(s) will be tailored to your organisation's requirements.

Stage 3 - Measure

Your survey will be built and your directors will be invited by email to complete it online. A paper version is available if necessary.

Stage 4 - Analyse

Your survey results will be analysed, including determining major themes, areas of excellence and any areas where improvement can be achieved. If director interviews or other review processes were agreed in Stage 1, these will also be completed.

Stage 5 - Reporting and debrief

The reports and debriefs agreed at the outset will be completed. Any additional analysis, reporting and feedback requested will also be carried out.

About Boards Insync

Boards Insync is the specialist board survey division of Insync Surveys. It has one of the largest suites of integrated board surveys in the world, including Board Effectiveness Surveys, Board Risk Surveys, Audit Committee and Risk Committee Surveys and Director 360 Surveys.

Its world class board surveys are available globally and have been carried out for numerous large public, private, government and not-for-profit organisations.

Visit: www.boardsinsync.com
Contact us: info@boardsinsync.com

About Insync Surveys

Insync Surveys has one of the largest suites of leading edge integrated benchmarked stakeholder surveys in the world. Its surveys are distributed in over 30 countries and in over 15 languages and include surveys for employees, customers, boards, community groups and many other organisation stakeholders.

Insync Surveys has carried out surveys for some of the largest public, private, government and not-for-profit organisations in Asia Pacific. It is based in Australia and has representatives in New Zealand, Asia, UK and North America. Insync Surveys' technology also powers the surveys of Board Benchmarking.

Visit: www.insyncsurveys.com.au
Contact us: info@insyncsurveys.com.au

Melbourne
Level 7
91 William Street
Melbourne
Vic 3000
Australia
Tel. +61 3 9909 9209
Fax. +61 3 9614 4460

Perth
76 Wittenoom Street
East Perth
WA 6004
Australia
Tel. +61 8 6461 6485
Fax. +61 8 6270 4491

Sydney
Level 2
110 Pacific Hwy
North Sydney
NSW 2060
Australia
Tel. +61 2 8081 2000
Fax. +61 2 9955 8929