

Strategic Thinking and Organisational Leadership

About the Australian Centre for Sustainable Business and Development (ACSBD)

The ACSBD is a research centre of the University of Southern Queensland (USQ).

Mission statement

The mission of the ACSBD is to accelerate sustainable development by proving the business case for sustainability.

Overview

Accelerating the industrial and commercial utilisation of sustainability innovation is the focus of the newly established ACSBD. The centre is based at USQ Springfield on Brisbane's south western outskirts and at USQ's main campus at Toowoomba.

The ACSBD's research is grounded in high quality research projects involving partners from industry, government and other research centres. Platforms for collaborative research and development exist in sectors as diverse as energy and water, agriculture, tourism and urban design and development.

ACSBD works with its partners providing a range of products and services including research, teaching, training, consultancy, public policy debate, and community and industry extension activities.

This capability statement outlines our expertise in the field of Strategic Thinking & Organisational Leadership. Capability statements for other areas we work in are available from our web site.

Our Strategic Thinking and Organisational Leadership Work

The Strategic Thinking Research syndicate contributes to significant collaborative research in the area of Human Sustainability. The core members are Prof Ronel Erwee and three PhD candidates Tiana Gurney, Rene Malan and Luke van der Laan. The research syndicate can also function as an independent entity. The syndicate has researched strategic thinking and strategy making in regional private hospitals, Regional Councils and private and public sector organisations among strategy groups and strategic leaders. We are researching companies moving from a Phase 4 Efficiency to Phase 5 Strategic Pro-activity.

What we offer

- The Strategic Thinking Research syndicate has a number of tools that can be used in organisations to analyse the competencies of strategic leaders and strategy groups such as:
 - Foresight Styles Assessment
 - Decision Style Inventory
 - Time Styles assessment
 - Strategy-Making Process scale

- The Strategic Thinking Research syndicate also holds workshops with strategic leaders or strategy groups to assess their competencies

Recent successes

The research on strategy making in regional private hospitals and regional councils have been completed and submitted for examination and a research report has been delivered.

Van Der Laan L 2009 “Foresight competence and the strategic thinking of individuals: Pilot study report “, Unpublished report for the Institute of Futures Research.

Gurney, T 2010 “Marketing strategy and organisational strategy: a study of regional private hospitals”, PhD dissertation has been examined.

Malan R 2010 “The role of shared mental models of strategic thinking in the development of organisational strategy, Submitted PhD dissertation for examination.

Our research team

Professor Ronel Erwee - Ronel is researching mainly in the area of leadership and international management. She has applied her research outcomes to aged care, technology management, knowledge management and other business disciplines. Ronel is actively involved in the Australian and New Zealand Management Academy activities, especially in the domain of knowledge management research. She serves on the Academic Boards of the Australian Institute of Management and the Australian Council of Applied Psychology. She has supervised a number of DBA and PhD students to completion. As Director of the Australian Graduate School of Business, she was responsible in compiling a RQF portfolio for the International Business Research for the Faculty of Business in 2007, conducting the MBA review and managing all postgraduate programs. She lectures in Management consulting, international management and managing the DBA and Masters by research program.

Mr Luke van der Laan – Luke was a CEO of a South African not-for-profit organisation before he came to Australia. He has recently completed projects on the futures competence of strategic leaders for the Institute of Futures Research, University of Stellenbosch as well as for South African and Australian companies. He completed a Masters degree in futures research and is finalising his PhD in foresight, strategic thinking and strategy making. He is lecturing in administrative management and leadership development at the University of Southern Queensland.

Ms Renee Malan – Renee is an experienced consultant and manager focussing on organisational change and strategic thinking in regional councils in South Africa and Australia. She completed a Hons (Psychology) as well as a MBA degree and has been lecturing in strategic leadership, strategic management and human resource management at the University of Southern Queensland. Her PhD on strategic thinking and mental models in regional councils has been sent for examination.

Dr Tiana Gurney – Tiana completed a Hons degree and her PhD research on marketing strategy and organisational strategy in regional private hospitals has been sent for examination. She presented papers at ANZMAC and ANZAM conferences. She is currently a project liaison officer in USQ’S Health Informatics projects and assists researchers with grant applications.

Benefits of working with ACSBD

Ways we can help

Working in creative partnerships with business, communities, and government, the centre brings expert knowledge and leading edge research to projects that prove the business case for sustainability.

Apart from delivering on USQ's plan to be a leading contributor to sustainable futures for communities and regions, the centre strives to be an international leader in providing high quality research, education, training and advice on subjects as varied as:

- business strategy and governance for sustainability,
- innovation for sustainable development,
- roles and opportunities for new technology systems, and
- managing, accounting and reporting organisational sustainability performance.

Publications

Our researchers pride themselves on a successful track record of publications of which we share the results via the ACSBD website.

Contact us

If you would like more information about the Australian Centre for Sustainable Business and Development (ACSBD) please contact us:

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