



# PMI WA-Chapter Newsletter

September 2009

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## Special Point of Interest!!

### Projects-in-Action Program 2009

**PMBOK® and PRINCE2® – What Are The Differences and Similarities** will be held Tuesday 20 October.

**Alex Ashton PMP** will facilitate this workshop, where a current comparison between Prince2 and PMBoK will look at how these globally recognized project management references relate to each other. Based on the recent release of Prince2® 2009 and PMBoK® 4th Edition we will step the participant through the aspects that are either similar or unique to the particular product.

Both are highly regarded but there is still a common debate about which one should be used. This workshop will address that question and many others as we take a journey that compares the recent editions of each body of work.

For further information, please go to <http://www.wapmi.org.au/education/index.php#pia>

Clinton in't Veld, PMP  
Education Director  
PMI WA-Chapter

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## WA PMI Chapter's President Address

### Update on the proposed 'National Chapter' with Branches

In early 2008, Australian PMI Council (APC) initiated a project to investigate the establishment of a national PMI Australia Chapter.

This would mean that the existing state-based Chapters throughout Australia would become branches within the national Australia Chapter.

**NOTE:** The APC is an informal group of Presidents and other Executive officers of the Australian PMI Chapters, convened to address initiatives, projects and other matters of common interest. It has no jurisdiction over the individual Chapters.

This "Chapter and Branch" model has been implemented elsewhere by PMI, albeit in geographically much smaller countries.

In late 2008 and early 2009, the APC-sponsored project team charged with assessing the feasibility of the model, issued drafts of study report which outlined options for transitioning from the current structure to the new model. This required investigation of the legal processes to change existing constitutions and bylaws, establishing a governance framework, formulating

new nomination and election processes, winding up Chapters and establishing a new National Board with Branch Committees.

In March 2009, the WA Board considered the PMI Australia National Chapter Feasibility Study Report.

The outcome was that currently the Board does not consider there to be a sufficient case for transition to a National Chapter.

At best, the business case indicates that there would only be a marginal benefit to members in some areas of services (e.g. organisation of national events and direct communication with federal government and large, national enterprises), but this was negated by reduced benefits in other areas of operation and service.

A number of benefits which supported the original business case may, in any event, be realised as a result of PMI's establishment of the National office, an initiative which is supported by the WA Chapter.

Once the National Office is operating, it may deliver some of the previously anticipated benefits of the Australian Chapter, thereby further diminishing the business case

for the Chapter-Branch model.

In assessing the report, the Board also noted that the additional layer of administration for the Australian Chapters/Branches would increase overall operating costs, resulting in a smaller proportion of each membership dollar producing direct member benefits.

This is particularly difficult to justify in the current economic climate, a situation that is unlikely to change for some time.

Like other PMI components, the WA Chapter's focus is on maximising services and benefits to its members.

We do not believe that transition to the proposed National Chapter/Branches model is in line with those aims, and that a compelling case for such a radical re-organisation has not been proved.

In light of this, the Board is not currently supporting the project and has recommended to the APC that activities should cease and the project wound down so that further expenditure is minimised.

Nigel Rarp, PMP  
PMI WA-Chapter President

## PMI WA Board Nominations

Well, it's official !!!

I have been advised by the Nominations Committee that the following PMI WA-Chapter Members have been accepted as bona fide candidates having passed the following criteria:

1. Financial Member of PMI WA

2. Committing to having the capacity to attend at least 75% of both the monthly Board Meetings as well as the monthly Chapter (Members) Meetings.

**Financial Members** of the PMI WA-Chapter will be able to vote for a maximum of five of the following seven candidates (alphabetical surname order):

- Brett Anderson
- Alan Griffiths
- Alden Lee
- Richard Pragasam
- Tara Shah
- Nenad Susic
- Galen Townson

Watch for a special email soon!  
Nigel Rarp, PMP  
PMI WA-Chapter President

## Quick Tips for Dealing with Difficult People

By Margaret Meloni,  
MBA, PMP  
[www.pmlectures.com](http://www.pmlectures.com) /  
[www.melonicoaching.com](http://www.melonicoaching.com)



Your hands are sweating;  
your stomach is in knots.

Once again you need to sit  
down and discuss your  
project requirements  
document with that  
obnoxious team member.

The one who just drives you  
crazy.

If you say left, they say right.

But that's okay because you  
put it off until the very end of  
the day.

You immersed yourself in  
other work and did not  
bother to think about this  
conversation.

After all why waste time on a  
no win situation?

You are going to stop by their  
desk, tell them how it will be  
and then go home.

But what if there were  
another way?

It is not likely that the difficult  
person will change for you,  
but you can change the way  
the two of you interact.

You can take more control of  
the situation and work  
towards a positive outcome  
on your project.

Consider this approach:  
- Prepare for the conversation  
in advance. Identify what you  
hope to gain from the  
interaction and begin with  
this end in mind.  
- Be flexible; do not be so  
focused on your end goal that  
you cannot take a detour in  
the conversation. This detour  
may help you understand the  
perspective of your difficult  
person.

- Select a time that is conven-  
ient to both of you. A time  
when you can both can listen  
and exchange information  
without additional pressures  
or distractions.

- Listen; really listen to what  
they are saying. If they say  
something like, 'I cannot do

that' or 'That will not work';  
ask them why. - Whatever  
issue they have may not be  
about you. Try to get the real  
problem out in the open.

- Maintain emotional  
objectivity. Remember, what-  
ever drives them to be  
difficult is about them, not  
about you.

- An individual who is upset  
may become defensive and  
verbally attack you. Stay  
calm, take a deep breath and  
pause before responding.

If the discussion gets too  
heated, recommend that you  
both take some time to cool  
off.

Then agree on a time when  
you will reconvene. No  
matter how difficult, deal  
with the situation.

Agree to stick with the  
situation until you have both  
been able to understand one  
another.

You do not have to agree, but  
you want to work toward a  
relationship where you can  
respect each other as  
individuals and professionals.

It is quite possible that your  
difficult person is reacting to a  
quality in you that they can't  
deal with.

Are they this way with other  
project team members or are  
you the only one?

If no one else has problems  
with them, that's a tip-off  
that you may unwittingly be  
contributing to the situation.

It's a rare person who doesn't  
share some blame for a rocky  
relationship and you are no  
exception.

A little introspection may be  
the key to turning a difficult  
person into one who is  
co-operative and pleasant to  
work with.

If your difficult person is  
viewed this way by others, it  
would be doing him or her a

favor to sit down and frankly  
discuss the situation.

This can be tricky, of course,  
but you really don't have  
much to lose.

They probably don't know  
that they are being difficult or  
that people dread having to  
stop by their desk and talk  
with them.

Having a private discussion  
with them in a calm and  
rational manner might be all  
that's needed to turn your  
difficult person into a valuable  
project team member.

The secret to a successful  
discussion, however, is to  
keep it objective and avoid  
making accusations.

Telling someone they are  
hard to work with is insulting  
and counterproductive; telling  
them that you'd like to get rid  
of the friction between the  
two of you and then offering  
your help will get better  
results.

If all else fails, you may just  
have to resign yourself to the  
fact that you must work with  
a difficult person.

Doing so with grace and good  
humor will set an example for  
others as well as making the  
situation a bit less stressful  
for you.

### About the Author:

Margaret Meloni, MBA, PMP,  
is an executive coaching con-  
sultant for IT professionals.

She helps project managers  
and teams work together  
better by improving their soft  
skills.

Learn how to successfully  
combine your technical and  
soft skills in her lectures at  
PM Lectures  
([www.pmlectures.com](http://www.pmlectures.com)) and  
Meloni Coaching  
([www.melonicoaching.com](http://www.melonicoaching.com)).

Project Management  
Institute,

**Western  
Australia  
Chapter,**

PO Box 587,  
Leederville, WA, 6903  
AUSTRALIA



The Western Australia Chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI®) was established in December 2001 as a not-for-profit Australian organisation.

PMI is the largest international professional organisation for the project management profession and is well known for its international defacto standard publication called the "Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge" (PMBOK®).

The WA Chapter's vision is "To be the leader in promoting Project Management best practice, professional development, and standards in Western Australia."

[www.wapmi.org.au](http://www.wapmi.org.au)

### Member contributions welcome.

Please contact the Editor at: [communications@wapmi.org.au](mailto:communications@wapmi.org.au)

Errors and omissions to [communications@wapmi.org.au](mailto:communications@wapmi.org.au)

Herman Veltkamp, PMP  
Communications Director

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## Project Management Institute

# Remaining PIA 2009 Events

### DID YOU KNOW?

That there are only three  
PIA Events remaining for  
calendar 2009 ???

### Mark your calendars NOW !!

8.45 am for a  
9.00 am start  
Finish 12.30 pm

Book early to secure your place.

Register online:

<http://www.wapmi.org.au/education/index.php>

### Call for Presenters

If anyone is interested in presenting at future Chapter Meeting please contact the Events Director  
at [events@wapmi.org.au](mailto:events@wapmi.org.au) PMPs earn PDUs !!

PIA Date	PIA Topic
Tue 20 October	PMBOK and PRINCE2 – What Are The Differences and Similarities?
Wed 18 November	The Essentials and Science of Negotiating Skills
Wed 16 December	Linking Projects to Strategy – Importance of Project Manger's Business Acumen skills for Projects