Australian and New Zealand University Internal Audit Group

2011 Conference

Internal Auditors

Pushing the Boundaries

Seema Patel
Director, Assurance and Risk Management Services
Queensland University of Technology
Brisbane, Australia
INTERNAL AUDIT CONTINUUM

More Left Field – Greater Value Add

• Consulting
• Advisory and Educative Approach
• Business Partnership
• Client Focused
• Risk Focused
• Financial Controls
• Compliance Focused
• Tick and Flick Approach

Traditional Auditing

Risk Based Auditing

Proactive / Preventive Auditing
PITFALLS / BENEFITS OF LEFT FIELD ACTIVITIES

Pitfalls

- Independence / objectivity
- Redirection of scarce resources
- “… but you said… or … that you were involved…”
- Rubber stamp approach

Benefits

- Real or tangible value add
- Potential savings / efficiency gains
- Enhanced effectiveness
- Training, mentoring and coaching for University staff
- In-house Audit staff development / attraction / retention
- Agile audit function
EXAMPLES: LEFT FIELD ACTIVITIES

- Development / Implementation of Security Plan for a Core System
- Work Integrated Learning
- Integrated Review of Teaching Overlaps in conjunction with Director Planning and Budget and Dean of Studies
TIPS FOR PRACTICAL CONSULTING
FOR INTERNAL AUDITORS

- Authority through Audit Charter and endorsement from Audit Committee and Senior Management
- Develop strategies to manage risk
- Link to achieve strategic / business objectives of organisation
- Understand business (risk profile), competition and environment
- Continuously review skills base
- Be responsive and proactive
- Build 15-20% flexibility into Audit Plan

- Engage external expertise to supplement internal skills set
- Formalise and sign-off Terms of Reference
- Integrate and form “business partnerships” with management
- Adopt consultative approach
- Adopt project management approach
- Identify and manage own risks
- Document all advice provided