



# Corporate Governance of Information Technology

## Introductory Briefing

**Modern business** depends on information technology for just about everything. If the computers go wrong, business stops – and if new IT projects fail, future plans end up in disarray.

**How can** the people who should be most concerned – the executive and the board of directors – understand and govern the way that their organisation uses IT? How can they ensure the best outcomes with acceptable risk?

**Most discussion** of IT Governance is oriented to IT specialists, to help them do their job better. Until now, there has been little focus on the needs of the non-IT executives and the board.

But just as ISO 9000 changed the way organisations think about quality, a **new International Standard** is set to change the way we think about governance and use of IT.

ISO/IEC 38500 is based on Australia's AS8015:2005, which has been used to help numerous organisations **improve performance, reduce risk and better control their use of IT.**

This one hour briefing for **senior executives and directors** provides the opportunity to learn about corporate governance of IT and the new standard from one of its authors.

**Mark Toomey** is an independent and outspoken advocate for good governance of information technology. He chairs the Standards Australia committee that developed AS8015 – the precursor to ISO/IEC 38500 and was the project editor responsible for preparing the final text of the international standard. With more than three years experience in practical application of AS8015, Mark has become in-demand for his expert guidance on application of the new standard. He has provided briefings to international audiences in Australia, Canada, the United States and Europe.

Mark is a prolific contributor to the developing body of knowledge about corporate governance of information technology. He has published numerous papers and magazine articles on governance of IT, has spoken at many major conferences with diverse audiences including company directors, banking executives, leading consultants and IT specialists. Mark published the second edition of his book, *The Director's IT Compass* in 2006, and is currently writing a new and comprehensive guide to ISO 38500.

**ISO/IEC 38500** makes a real difference because it focuses on governing how IT is used, rather than on how IT is delivered.

The briefing covers:

- The lessons learned from a series of contemporary IT catastrophes, including one that took the Australia to the brink of economic crisis;
- Why "IT Projects" often fail to deliver intended business outcomes;
- Why spending on methodologies and frameworks, such as COBIT, ITIL and proprietary alternatives, and on so called "Governance Software" delivers only marginal improvement in IT success;
- How Governance of IT needs to deal with demand as well as supply;
- Why Governance of IT is a board-level responsibility;
- How ISO/IEC 38500 guides organisations in establishing an effective system of governance;
- How the principles set down in the standard should be used to guide the behaviour of the organisation, and its owners, directors, executives and managers, in making decisions about the use of IT.