

AS 8015—2005

CORPORATE
GOVERNANCE OF
INFORMATION &
COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY

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Australian Standard™

**Corporate governance of information
and communication technology**

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee IT-030, ICT Governance and Management.

The objective of this Standard is to provide a framework of principles for Directors to use when evaluating, directing and monitoring the information and communication technology (ICT) portfolio in their organizations.

This Standard for the Corporate Governance of ICT is aligned with the set of standards headed by AS 8000—2003. The other standards in that set provide guidance to organizations on good governance principles, fraud and corruption control, code of conduct, social responsibility and whistle blower protection.

Most organizations use ICT and few can function effectively without it.

Expenditure on ICT can represent a significant proportion of an organization's financial and human commitment. However, a return on this investment is often not realized and the adverse effects on organizations can be significant.

The main reasons for these negative outcomes are the emphasis on technical, financial and scheduling aspects of ICT activities rather than corporate governance of ICT.

This standard provides a framework for good governance of ICT, to assist those at the highest level of organizations to understand and fulfil their obligations. The framework comprises definitions, principles and a model.

Other standards and handbooks, covering implementation and development of governance structures, will support this standard.

Two Standards that are currently being developed deal with—

- (a) ICT projects; and
- (b) ICT operations.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Corporate governance of information and communication technology

SECTION 1 SCOPE, APPLICATION AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard provides guiding principles for Directors of organizations (including owners, board members, Directors, partners, senior executives, or similar) on the effective, efficient, and acceptable use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) within their organization.

The Standard applies to the governance of resources, computer-based or otherwise, used to provide information and communication services to an organization. These resources could be provided by ICT specialists, within the organization or external service providers, or by business units within the organization.

1.2 APPLICATION

This Standard is applicable to all organizations, including public and private companies, government entities, and not-for-profit organizations. The standard is applicable to organizations of all sizes from the smallest to the largest, regardless of the extent of their use of ICT.

It also provides guidance to those advising, informing, or assisting Directors. They include:

- (a) Senior managers.
- (b) Members of groups monitoring an resources within the organization.
- (c) External business or technical specialists, such as legal or accounting specialists, retail associations, or professional bodies.
- (d) Vendors of hardware, software, communications and other ICT products.
- (e) Internal and external service providers (including consultants).
- (f) ICT auditors.

1.3 OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this Standard is to promote effective, efficient, and acceptable use of ICT in all organizations by—

- (a) providing stakeholders (including consumers, shareholders, and employees) with the confidence that, if the Standard is followed, they can trust in the organization's corporate governance of ICT;
- (b) informing and guiding Directors in governing the use of ICT in their organization; and
- (c) providing a basis for objective evaluation of the corporate governance of ICT.