PGCS PROJECT AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM
Better Management • Better Projects

International Masterclass

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Strategies to detect, prevent, and correct causes of project stress and failure

Masterclass Overview

As Australia embarks on an unprecedented level of capital expenditure on major projects across multiple domains in Federal and State Governments including Defence and infrastructure across multiple sectors, including roads and rail projects in both the major capital cities and regional areas, it is timely to be reminded that major projects are perilous undertakings with the risks of project stress (defined and cost and/or schedule overrun) and failure both ever present, requiring ongoing monitoring to prevent and correct.

This master class provides a rare opportunity to learn from the latest United States research on the primary causes and contributors to project stress and failure and the latest strategies and tools and techniques which can be implemented to prevent and correct these issues, significantly improving the probability of successful project delivery outcomes.

The foundation of this masterclass is research, principles, and practices developed at the US Institute for Defence Analyses, a Federally Funded Research and Development Centre (FFRDC) which analysed root causes of project and program stress and failure for US Department of Defence programs. While this research informs the policy advice provided to the US Defence Department Office of Performance Assessments and Root Cause Analyses (PARCA) focused at improving the probability of project and program success, the lessons learned can be applied to all projects and programs across government and industry.

Masterclass Objectives:

The attendees will learn the principles and practices needed to identify the primary causes of project stress and failure as shown in the diagram below.

The attendees will gain hands on experience to prepare them with the skills to identify:

- The primary causes and contributing factors which lead to project stress and failure,
- The strategies needed to prevent project stress in the first place (preventative actions)
- The strategies, tools, and techniques used to successfully prevent and correct project issues creating risk of stress or failure.

Master class attendees will return to work with the knowledge and hands on experience needed to identify and implement preventative and corrective actions to address the primary causes and contributors to project stress and failure increasing the probability of successful delivery outcomes for projects and programs in their domains.