

Helping you reach your career goals faster through AusIMM professional development

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In 2012 The AusIMM Professional Development Committee (PDC) was created to assist in promoting the professional development (PD) of AusIMM members throughout their lifetime and to assist The AusIMM to provide greater focus on PD as a lifetime of learning, as well as a means of helping others to keep up to date and informed.

The main aim of the PDC is to package the existing PD initiatives offered by The AusIMM and to instigate new ways to assist minerals professionals in meeting their PD needs.

The PDC is made up of a small group of minerals professionals from a diverse range of disciplines, age, location and gender. This small committee works as a reference group to assist The AusIMM in completing initiatives and to put into place task forces to address upcoming issues when required.

On 2 April 2012 the committee held its first meeting with committee members Glen Corder, Chris Davis, Joshua Northfield, Elizabeth Haren and myself, as Chair, together with AusIMM staff Xanthus Weber and Miriam Way. Since this first meeting, Julie Shuttleworth has taken over the position held by Elizabeth Haren.

The PDC began by refocusing on and promoting PD throughout The AusIMM – after all much of what we do as a 'professional body' is actually PD for members. The PDC then identified all existing AusIMM PD activities and listed them on [the website](#) for members easily to access these varied benefits of membership.

The online AusIMM PD Calendar was the next initiative that put all AusIMM events in one place and enabled AusIMM members to find PD opportunities from both The AusIMM and external PD providers through a simple search function. Following this, we launched the AusIMM PD Logbook, a tool designed to provide AusIMM members with a central, online location to record their individual professional development activities. Members are encouraged to use this logbook to capture all PD activities for personal reference, internal employee assessments, resume building and Chartered Professional requirements and audits.

In addition to aiding AusIMM members in advancing their learning, support and guidance was provided to assist in the formulation of the new AusIMM Course Recognition Program. Earlier this year, The AusIMM rolled out the new list of AusIMM recognised courses. While this list is not exhaustive, we hope that it will substantially aid school leavers in better understanding their options for tertiary study towards a career in the minerals industry.

In 2013 the PDC will continue the promotion of PD as a fundamental aspect of AusIMM membership. It will also provide a focus on furthering the capabilities of the PD Logbook to include a PD Logbook Audit function for Chartered Professional members, promoting the Expert Speakers Program to Branch members to assist them in finding suitable speakers for their technical talks, and expanding the Course Recognition to include environmental, technical and post-graduate recognition. Both online and face-to-face PD opportunities will be investigated and the PDC is keen to explore various methods of providing further PD opportunities online.

We welcome any feedback or ideas on what The AusIMM can do to continue to advance the knowledge of its members and to assist them in their professional development.