

SOLGM Financial Management Working Party

Newsletter #1 – October 2005

The working party met in Wellington on Friday 21 October. The matters discussed are briefly summarized below.

Possible NZ IFRS and LTCCP Seminars.

Canvassing of listservs appeared to confirm that there was demand for additional seminar presentations relating to both NZ IFRS and the LTCCP. A range of potential topics had been identified. It was decided to organize a single programme covering both issues and with the focus of the NZ IFRS component being on those issues that are critical to the completion of the LTCCP.

The format is to be:

- presentations general material spanning both sets of issues in the morning; followed by,
- separate concurrent streams (with greater scope for discussion among participants) on more detailed IFRS and LTCCP issues respectively in the afternoon.

Tentative dates and venues are:

- 24 November, Rotorua; and
- 29 November, Christchurch.

Full programme and call for registrations are to be developed ASAP.

Rates Rebates Implementation.

The implications of the increased scale of the revised scheme for local authorities are going to be significant. It was agreed that SOLGM work with DIA to develop a full implementation programme with supporting guidance material. People interested in participating in the process for developing this should contact dmackay@solgm.org.nz.

OAG Observations on Self Assessments and Control Reviews.

Bruce Robertson gave an overview of where the self assessments and control review exercises were at, and what the national picture looked like.

Financial Management Training for Elected Members.

LGNZ raised for discussion the idea of a module on financial management as part of its training programme for elected members.

Programme for National Rating Seminar February 2006.

The WP got a brief report on where the steering group had got to in identifying possible seminar topics. SOLGM reported that it would be looking to use the seminar as an opportunity to roll out aspects of the rates rebate implementation and to highlight the new rating modules developed by the Legal Compliance Programme.

Rating Legal Compliance Modules.

The WP were briefed on progress with the publication of the Rating modules.

Role of the WP

The WP considered its own role and how it might undertake this more effectively. Anyone wishing to make suggestions should contact dmackay@solgm.org.nz

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be during February 2006.