

# THE ROLE OF TRAINING IN RISK MANAGEMENT

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The year 2020 highlighted many realities for us in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic. But the one it put a spotlight on was our ability (or lack of it) to manage our emergent risk blind spot i.e. the pandemic itself. We were made acutely aware of how woefully inadequate our preparation was to deal with the pandemic aftermath, be it in health care, the economy, our business operations or even in our personal lives. We are only just reeling back from its trail of havoc wreaked over the past year however our approach so far still seems to more akin to 'patch up' than preventative.

How did we get here? It would be surprising if the answer had little or nothing to do with risk management. The media is riddled with stories and examples of decisions made by governments, organisations, firms and even individuals that showed a lack of awareness and a lack of planning for the pandemic.

The pandemic has been a global wake up call for organisations shaking them out of their slumber of short-term goal setting strategies and prompting them to open their eyes to long-term planning opportunities and preparing for disruption. Whilst a big shift has come about in how society thinks and operates post-pandemic, it is difficult to expect that it has all the tools and understanding to clearly map out its next steps given how things panned out in 2020 already. This is where the astute application of risk management principles can be a highly effective tool.

Professionals who deal with risk are in a unique position to bring awareness and structure to the process of risk management. Training in risk management can be an influential strategy to help businesses and professionals achieve this. Training helps provide a holistic approach towards addressing risk. It helps us see things we may not otherwise with our short-term priority blinders on. Training can provide a safe environment to discuss big picture risks that we may not have the opportunity to talk about in our work places. Risk management training is about building resilience and flexibility in our risk fibre. It is about providing continuity management for emergent risks such as a pandemic.

The New Zealand Quality College (NZQC) is developing courses that are highly practical in nature and suitable for the practicing risk management professional. As the training arm of the Accreditation Council, NZQC is well placed and qualified in the training domain to address this training need. In collaboration with Risk NZ, NZQC have developed a portfolio of courses for the risk management community that cover a range of skill areas from risk fundamentals through to risk practitioner level based on ISO31000 principles, framework and processes. The highly practical nature of training focuses on the how of risk management through case studies and practical implementation exercises.

1. Risk Management ISO31000 Foundation – Overview of risk management systems and how to apply a risk management methodology in an organisation
2. Implementing a Risk Management System – How to design, develop and implement a risk management systems based on ISO 31000 Risk Management Guidelines, Terminology and Principles
3. Risk Management Practitioner – Provides existing risk management practitioners with the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills for design, development and implementation of a risk management framework for their organisation and its compliance obligations. Participants get to do an in-course assessment allowing them to practice techniques to be applied post course.
4. Risk based Operational Planning – Provides participants with the knowledge and skills to develop and implement an operational plan and manage the associated risks to achieve required goals and objectives.

The role of training in risk management exists to support integration of risk management into organisations as a more preventative measure than a patch-up after-thought. Any expression of interest or queries can be sent through to the [RiskNZ office](#).

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