



PROJECT MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE WESTERN AUSTRALIA CHAPTER

MAKING PROJECT MANAGEMENT INDISPENSABLE FOR BUSINESS RESULTS

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

12 Feb 2014 @ 6:00pm
City West Reception,
45 Plaistowe Mews,
West Perth, WA 6005

IN THIS EDITION

February Professional
Development Workshop

With Gary De Rodriguez

NEW Insurance facility
for Project Managers
from **Perrymans**

What's On
February 2014

GENERAL

[Webcast](#)

Chapter Meeting
Will Earn You PDU's

Events, Events, Events
Read about it [here](#)

Newsletter Content
Member contributions
are most welcome.

[Contact](#) the Editor!

- February Chapter Meeting -

Procurement Project in the pre-operational of the new state of the art Fiona Stanley Hospital.

Join us for the first Chapter Meeting of the Year to be presented by John Beattie and Najwa Mouline from Serco Australia and Julie Hendon from Department of Health. The Procurement Management Team from Fiona Stanley Hospital will speak on the development, implementation and challenges of the public procurement project. [[Book Now](#)]

Transport note.

The venue is close to the CityWest train station and free city bus services are proposed for mid 2013. [Read more](#). The yellow and green CAT will service this area. [See the map](#).



- February Professional Development Workshop -

The February PMI workshop will be presented by Gary De Rodriguez of People Rich. Presentation and influencing are important skills for any project manager in almost every aspect of their work. Whether it is gaining the support of your board, explaining project status to your sponsor, or communicating with your team to boost performance, being able to influence for the desired result can make a big difference to your projects and their outcomes.

This workshop is relevant to anyone who needs to engage and influence others. The topics and tools presented will be relevant to those people working in teams, liaising with project stakeholders at all levels, and leading project teams. It will be suitable for: Project managers, Project team members, Project stakeholders, and anyone who wishes to improve their ability to present and influence to achieve effective outcomes.

Participants of all levels and work roles will gain valuable insights from the material presented. [[Book Now](#)]

Planning to sit the CAPM / PMP exam in 2014?

A study group can be an effective way of learning, it helps put a structure around your preparations and puts a certain level of accountability on you that can aid motivation. It can also provide an extra networking platform as you meet and work with like-minded project management professionals. Why not try it and increase your prospects of success? Register your interest by contacting Rob Hurst (Certification Director) via certification@wapmi.org.au

What's On: February 2014

Enter these dates in your calendar now before your schedule fills up:

- 12 Feb 2014 Project Management Toastmasters (City West)
- 12 Feb 2014 WA PMI Chapter Meeting [[Book Now](#)]
- 19 Feb 2014 WA PMI Professional Development Workshop [[Book Now](#)]
- 26 Feb 2014 Project Management Toastmasters (Woodside Plaza)



PMI Australia Conference 2014—Melbourne

Following the success of the inaugural PMI Australia Conference in Sydney the Australian PMI Chapters have collaborated to present a second conference to be held in Melbourne in 2014. Taking up the mantle from it's predecessor, the Melbourne conference will build on the platform provided for professionals, academics and community representatives to share knowledge, experience and professional camaraderie; whilst once again recognising and acknowledging professional excellence via the PMI Australia Annual Awards. Keep in touch with the latest news about the PMI Australia Conference via social media channels by clicking the appropriate icon (left) to make sure you don't miss anything.



REMINDER—Professional Risks Insurance Facility for PMI Members



Perrymans is pleased to announce the launch of the **NEW Professional Risks Insurance Facility for PMI Members**. The facility is for PMI Project Managers who are seeking a competitive insurance facility and who work in various industry sectors including: Construction and Allied Professions, Business Services and IT. The facility provides cover for Professional Indemnity and Public Liability.

Perrymans have been advising, arranging and developing covers for Project Managers and the Project Management industry for more than 20 years and are widely considered an expert and leading insurance broker in this industry sector. The extension of the facility has arisen as a direct result of contact from PMI members to Perrymans seeking not only an insurance broker/advisor that understands what they do, but also offering an insurance facility with additional benefits for them.

Please visit [Perrymans](#) online and complete the 'Enquiry Today' section or phone our office to speak with a member of our team. Alternatively you can also refer to your local PMI Chapter [website](#) for access.

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6 Reasons Why You May Have Failed The PMP Exam 3 Times

By Cornelius Fichtner, PMP, CSM

While I hope it doesn't happen to you, some people fail the PMP exam 3 times. If you do find yourself in that situation, you will have to wait a year from the date of your last exam before you will be able to apply for your [PMP certification](#) again.

Over the years, I have found several reasons why someone continues to fail the exam. However – and as hard as it may be to hear this – if it happens to you then you have to acknowledge that you are part of the problem! You are the one taking and failing the test and you should carry some responsibility for not being able to pass because many, many other people do manage to get through it each year.

But on the other hand PMI has made this exam extremely difficult, and by sitting for the exam multiple times you have proven that you are serious about passing the exam, getting your PMP Credential, and distinguishing yourself from your peers. You can still keep your head up high!

So once you are prepared to accept the complexities of the exam and your role in failing it, then you need to change your exam taking strategies and take a look at your exam techniques. You can make changes that will help you overcome those difficulties. First, you need to establish why you have failed and then you can take action to improve your chance of passing the exam next time. So let's look at 6 reasons why you may have failed the PMP exam and what you can do about them.

1: You lack understanding of the PMP exam concepts

Perhaps the reason for failing the exam 3 times is simply that you don't understand the concepts in A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge, (*PMBOK® Guide*) - Fifth Edition or they did not sink in properly. While you may have studied everything several times, for some reason you simply haven't been able to get them to make sense in a way that allows you to apply the concepts and pass the exam.

Action: Get yourself a "Study Buddy". Find someone in your area, company or PMI Chapter who is also studying and meet with them on a weekly basis. Review the concepts together and most importantly explain to each other how you understand the concepts. You can also work together on practice questions and explain the reasons for your answers. Making a case for why you think the answer you choose is the "best" answer will help both you and your buddy learn and more importantly remember the concept. After all, the best way to learn something is to teach it, wouldn't you agree?

2: You struggle with standardized exams

Many students know the material, have the experience and have prepared well, but then they simply "freeze up" during a standardized test. They find the pressure too intense and can't perform with that amount of stress.

Action: Unfortunately I'm not a psychologist and frankly I don't have a silver bullet for helping you through this. Everyone deals with test anxiety differently. You could take a lot of complete, 4-hour exams in order to prepare yourself using test conditions. Think about the exam as a chance to reward yourself for all your studying instead of something scary to be tackled. Visualization, working with a colleague, journaling and building your self-confidence may also help.

3: English may not be your first language

My own mother tongue is German and I must admit that when I took the exam I had difficulty understanding and clearly distinguishing between the various PMI terms and concepts that were so new to me.

Action: PMI offers language aids in 13 languages. This means that during the exam you can switch back and forth between the English text and the translation. However, bear in mind that doing this is time consuming and these language aids are difficult to use in an already stressful and time-constrained situation.

6 Reasons Why You May Have Failed The PMP Exam 3 Times—Continued

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4: You can't handle the exam room distractions

The exam rooms are not only used for [PMP](#) exams, so people will be coming in and out and there could be other distractions. The most severe case of this that I know of is a student who reported that a maid came into the exam room and cleaned her screen while she was taking the exam - she failed her test. Of course this is rare! But you should be ready for any sort of distraction during the exam and able to recover from it quickly (or ignore it completely).

Action: Take your laptop to your nearest coffee shop and take 2-3 sample exams right there in the midst of all the hustle and bustle. Learn to focus!

5: You didn't take any practice exams

Unfortunately some of my students didn't listen to my advice and attempted to take the PMP exam several times without logging on to a PMP exam simulator and practicing at home. Practice exams really will help you perform better during the real thing.

Action: Sign up for a PMP exam simulator. Take some practice exams.

6: You've lost confidence

After failing the exam several times it's not unusual for someone to lose confidence in their ability to pass. I see this often: students just don't believe in themselves any longer.

Action: This is the moment when a PMP coach needs to be brought on board and you have to stop self-study as it will no longer work for you. The PMP coach (either in-person or virtual) will work with you individually or in a very small group to review the PMP concepts and go through hundreds of exam questions to explain them. This is a great way to get a professional's insight into how to approach the questions and build your confidence at the same time.

Once you've examined your own reasons for failing the exam you may find that it's because of something different to these points. That's OK - everyone is different! The main thing to remember is that while the PMP exam is tough, it isn't impossible and it can be passed. So don't get discouraged. Tackle the situation as you would any other failed or failing project: analyze what is going wrong, make changes to your project management plan and then bring the project to a successful close. After all, that's what we project managers do!

About the author: Cornelius Fichtner, PMP, CSM is a noted PMP expert. He has helped over 26,000 students prepare for the [PMP exam](#) with The Project Management PrepCast and offers what is possibly the best [PMP exam simulator](#) on the market.