

Questions for Board bootcamp week one:

Isn't that a conflict of interest - a paid staff member and a volunteer board director of the same org?

- It definitely increases the likelihood of conflicts of interest arising during agenda items but can be allowed in some organisations.

In relation to the scenario about the CEO advising the board to not apply for a tender and then leaving the organisation to work for a competitor:

- 1. What do we do in a situation like this? This is the case of betrayal of trust.**
- 2. Would this be a reportable corruption issue/legal breach?**

At the end of the day the board is accountable for decisions made and unless they could prove that the CEO deliberately misled them (probably very difficult) then there isn't likely much they can do other than not provide a reference for the CEO in the future. Even if they could prove deliberate intent, litigating it would probably be beyond the resources of most NFP organisations.

In relation to the scenario about Live, Love, Learn and their funding issues: how should the reserve be used? knowing it can't continue as usual should you be dipping into the reserve?

The organisation's reserves could be used to tide over the period of no funding if the board was confident the funding would eventuate but the risk of using all the reserves to cover expenses while still incurring them is huge as demonstrated in the example I mentioned.

What if you're on a board and have a specific skillset and the org puts out an RFQ, and you have the skills for the job? Do you quote, or can you submit a quote?

Check the constitution, organisational policies and the rest of the board. As long as you declare the conflict, it's managed appropriately and there is nothing stopping you in organisational documents, then it is likely to be ok. Ultimately the board needs to weigh up whether it would be in the best interests of the organisation.