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Online Convention Helps Local Virtual Assistant Find Pathways to a Successful VA Practice

BRISBANE, QLD – “This convention not only allows us to learn from seasoned professionals, but also affords us the opportunity to network with people from all over the planet,” says Lyn Prowse-Bishop, whose company Executive Stress Office Support specialises in providing remote administrative and personal assistant/secretarial support services to independent professionals and non-executive directors. Lyn is a virtual assistant, and she along with thousands of other virtual professionals working worldwide will attend the Online International Virtual Assistants Convention (OIVAC), scheduled on Friday, May 16, 2008 through Sunday, May 18, 2008, to learn, network and grow.

Virtual Assistants (or VAs) are not freelancers as described in books like “*The 4-Hour Work Week*” and by other “outsource-your-life” proponents, but independent entrepreneurs who work remotely and use the latest technology to deliver professional administrative, creative, managerial, technical, business back-office and/or personal support services to busy professionals. Clients only pay for the time actually spent working on projects and often retain a fixed amount of hours per month for service.

The 2nd annual convention in 2007 was a great success with over 30 topics presented across the three days. The 3rd Convention is shaping up to be even better. A completely online event, the OIVAC offers educational seminars, workshops, an international exhibition and networking opportunities for aspiring and veteran VAs. “It also allows VAs to experience, first hand application of VoIP technology, inclusive of white boarding, video and PowerPoint presentations, file sharing, etc., all of which can potentially be marketed as a value-add service to clients,” says Sharon Williams, OIVAC Founder. “By attending seminars conducted by intra- and external VA-industry recognised experts, participants gain access to a wealth of knowledge, experiences and information specifically crafted to benefit the virtual assistant audience. In other words, if you have questions, these presenters have answers!”

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Lyn Prowse-Bishop, who is on the steering committee of the OIVAC and Australia's first certified Master Virtual Assistant, is also founder of the new Australian Virtual Business Network (<http://www.avbn.com.au>) which provides clients with access to some of the best virtual service providers Australia has to offer. It is also the only source of *pre-qualified* Australian virtual businesses.

Virtual Assisting is the fastest growing home-based business phenomena of the 21st century attracting entrepreneurial-minded administrative professionals at an extraordinary rate. Worldwide, more than 20,000 office support providers have abandoned corporate and government jobs to work-from-home, full-time, as home-based business owners. More than 90 percent of them are highly-skilled working mothers. Lyn Prowse-Bishop, the former Executive Assistant to the GM of the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, originally conceived the idea for her business in February 2000. She started a new career in order to achieve a better work/life balance with her new family and now has clients across Australia and around the world.

About Executive Stress Office Support

Launched in 2000, Executive Stress Office Support® (eSOS™) offers a range of services - but specialises in digital transcription, document production, internet-related marketing activities, and executive personal assistant services. With clients across Australia, in the UK and on both coasts of the USA, eSOS™ provides clients with high quality, confidential secretarial and Virtual Assistant support by utilising today's latest technologies. Visit the website at www.execstress.com.

About Alliance for Virtual Businesses

Established in June 2003, the Alliance for Virtual Businesses™ is volunteer-directed organisation, whose primary mission is to promote the growth of free enterprise between virtual assistants, entrepreneurs, small businesses, corporations, associations and other business entities. At the website client-related case studies, industry-related demographics, and a wealth of other types of information are available to facilitate learning about our industry. Visit the website at www.allianceforvirtualbiz.com.

About Online International Virtual Assistants Convention

The OIVAC is an online, interactive, "live" yet virtual environment convention of Virtual Assistants, traveling Pathways to Successful VA Practices. Visit the website at www.oivac.com.