

What Makes a Successful Leader?

Leadership skills and attributes

A survey of highly successful Australian leaders produced the following list of skills and attributes. They believed these were essential to effective leadership (Sarros & Butchatsky 2006).

- Coping with and driving change through the organisation.
- Having a view of the future.
- Seeking out opportunities and challenging the status quo.
- Involving everyone in developing organisational visions and missions.
- Establishing core values.
- Being honest and having integrity.
- Recruiting the best people for the job.
- Coaching, mentoring, and role modelling.
- Rewarding achievement and encouraging learning from mistakes.
- Establishing and communicating clear and achievable goals.
- Having good interpersonal skills, caring about people.
- Understanding the interaction between people and systems.
- Being persistent and patient.
- Respecting the contributions of all individuals.
- Asking questions constantly.
- Building on past achievements.
- Being enthusiastic about work and enthusing others.
- Aligning people to a cause.
- Being flexible in their approach.
- Building a team.
- Knowing and focusing on the core business.
- Having intellectual energy and drive.
- Inspiring others.
- Having mental toughness and conviction in your ability.
- Being aware of your place in the overall scheme of things.
- Managing time and responsibilities effectively.
- Balancing conflicting constituencies.
- Making decisions and solving problems.