| Step | Challenges facing SEMs | Prospert Approach | Expected Outcomes for NESA Members |
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| Targeting relevant stakeholders | A key challenge in stakeholder engagement is knowing who to target. Careful research and analysis is required to ensure SEMs are not "fishing in a chlorine pool" – chasing stakeholders who are inappropriate. | Prospert advocates a very focussed and disciplined approach to identifying targets, drawing on what works today and employment trends in preferred regions. We then help SEMs build a stakeholder plan for their regions. | SEM only target prospective stakeholders with a strong chance of signing MoUs |
| Approaching stakeholders with confidence | With the plan in place, it is now time to approach your key stakeholders. Knock backs are common here which can impact SEM confidence. Time management becomes an issue and sales efficiency suffers. | In response, Prospert promotes a tried and tested "approach technique" for gaining meetings with key influencers or decision makers. This technique gets around the gatekeeper before the SEM is shut down. We help SEMs refine their unique value proposition and "nutshell speech" for use in initially engaging key influencers and decision makers. Practicing the technique is a must and we allow time for this in the training program. | High ratio of meetings gained per approach More sales time invested in developing relationships with decision makers |
| Engaging stakeholders | The first meeting is the moment of truth. SEMs may fall into the trap of asking each target if they are prepared to sign an MoU before they have earnt their trust and understood their function. Summarising each meeting and making a plan for the next stage is key. | SEMs are provided with a step by step approach to building a stakeholder profile. This aims to qualify each organisation on their potential to become a rewarding partner. We then provide instructions on how to summarise each meeting and make a plan. | Strong position to understand true business value of each MoU Highly informed SEMs on stakeholder value rating Referrals to other useful stakeholders |

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| Doing the deal | This step often makes or breaks a SEM's relationship. Very often, potential partners find it easier to say no than agree to signing an MoU. Frequently, the real reason is hidden in a cloak of deception. Typical excuses include needing more time to consider, having to consult their lawyers, or the lack of financial incentives available. | Prospert instils in SEMs the confidence and motivation to take objections "head on". Using our refined technique, SEMs uncover what is really going on inside their counterpart's mind so it can be openly discussed. Practicing the technique is a must and we allow time for this in the training program. | Higher sales conversion rates Increased immediate business benefits More confident and motivated SEM salesforce |
| Building and growing stakeholder relationships | In this circumstance, keeping relationships warm whilst awaiting tender outcomes and establishing a regional presence could be the most challenging step. Many SEMs fail to appreciate the cost of ignoring "hard won" relationships. As MoUs are not legally binding, keeping relationships warm is essential to having viable partners ready to engage in the lead up to doing business in a new region. | At Prospert, we have well developed techniques for maintaining relationships, from simple communications to more in-depth meeting arrangements. We articulate how SEMs can avoid burning stakeholders. Again, practicing the technique ensures SEMs are in a strong position to defend existing MoUs in place. | Fewer MoUs at risk of lapsing or partners being poached by other providers More exclusive arrangements |

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| Ongoing coaching and mentoring | Immediately post training, certain SEMs may initially struggle with applying the new skills. They may demonstrate sufficient effort in engaging, however they do not get enough MoUs signed up as NESA Members prefer. It can take a few weeks for leaders to understand who is struggling. This below average engagement productivity can be costly for tender success. | Prospert has deep experience in identifying those who demonstrate a genuine enthusiasm for proactive business development. We work with leaders to determine who might benefit from ongoing coaching and mentoring – immediately after the training concludes. These are weekly, 45m sessions which run for a minimum of five weeks. Conducted with individuals or pairs, the sessions are tracked via our Development Activity Plan. Results are shared with each mentee's leader and interventions, if required, are quickly raised. | Highly skilled SEMs who are high on motivation and confidence More MOUs per SEM NESA Members stakeholder management seen as market leader |