

“  
**Stay curious,**  
it keeps you adaptable in  
a changing world.”



**Ria Pretorius**  
Director and Head:  
Business Risk Services | SNG Grant Thornton

## Role and Leadership

Ria Pretorius leads a dynamic team within the Advisory Business Unit under Business Risk Services. Her focus is on shaping the future of internal audit, risk management, and business improvement, integrating technology to make processes smarter, faster, and more robust. She works closely with clients to help them adopt new technologies effectively, ensuring change is understood, embraced, and delivers measurable value.

Her career began as a chartered accountant in audit, but a pivotal moment in 2000 shifted her path toward technology and business risk. Recognising early the power of technology to both enhance and compromise decision-making, she pursued further qualifications in computer auditing and a master's degree, building a career that blends deep technical expertise with strategic insight.

### Industry Outlook

She sees the internal audit profession evolving rapidly with the integration of digital tools, automation, and new standards aligned to today's digital risks. She believes the profession must move beyond manual processes toward real-time insights, continuous improvement, and proactive risk management. Her outlook emphasises:



**Technology-enabled internal audit:** using data analytics, automation, and systems integration to drive audit efficiency and accuracy.



**Human-centric adoption:** ensuring teams are trained, supported, and culturally aligned when embracing change.



**Education as a growth driver:** investing in skills development to bridge the talent gap in risk and audit.

Ria also leads an internal initiative *Sheroes Beyond Internal Audit*, an internal SNG Grant Thornton initiative providing free access to skills development, job shadowing, podcasts, and role model engagement for risk professionals. The programme has attracted support from large organisations and has inspired professionals to further their studies and career ambitions.

### Women Powering Progress

For her, Women Powering Progress means creating visible role models, building supportive networks, and investing in skills that allow women to step confidently into leadership roles. She highlights the importance of giving women access to mentorship, exposure, and opportunities that accelerate their growth and influence in the profession.

### Advice for Young Leaders

Ria's counsel to the next generation is to learn, listen and lead:

“  
**Be willing to learn from those younger than you; technology adoption often starts with them. Share your knowledge generously, it will multiply back into your career and community.**”

## Brand Purpose – Turning Growth into Shared Progress

When asked what Turning Growth into Shared Progress means to her, Ria says:

“

Turning growth into shared progress for me is making sure that as we grow our clients, we grow the people within those clients, we grow the communities around them, and we make sure that growth is not only for the business but for everyone it touches.”

### Creating Client Value

Maria helps clients navigate change with a focus on:

- ✓ Implementing the new internal audit standards
- ✓ Digital transformation in risk and audit
- ✓ Business process improvement and automation
- ✓ Change management and skills upliftment

She works alongside clients to ensure technology delivers tangible benefits, reduces risks, and empowers teams to make better decisions.

### Future Outlook

Maria believes the future of internal audit and risk lies in combining technological innovation with human insight, ensuring businesses are resilient, adaptive, and contributing to shared progress in their industries and communities.

### Partner with SNG Grant Thornton.

Let's shape a future where growth uplifts everyone.

Partner with SNG Grant Thornton, Turning Growth into Shared Progress.