

27 November 2015

Dear Mr Secretary General

The Ethics Centre (formerly the St James Ethics Centre) has been a signatory to the UN Global Compact since 2008. This brief Communication on Engagement covers the 24 months to end October 2015, summarising the key practical actions that we have undertaken to support the Global Compact principles and engage with the initiative.

We confirm our ongoing commitment and support for the Global Compact as we continue to fulfil our wide-ranging work in the field of applied ethics.

Yours sincerely



Dr Simon Longstaff
Executive Director
The Ethics Centre

The Ethics Centre was founded more than 25 years ago as an independent and secular centre for applied ethics in Australia. Our primary aim has been to work with individuals and organisations in order to assist them to make better decisions with a clear conviction that have been true to their values and principles.

Details of our work, including other reports, are published in our annual report and on our website www.ethics.org.au

Listed below are some key actions and outcomes that we have undertaken in the 24 months to 31 October 2015.

Area of engagement	Actions and outcomes
Deliver education on topics related to the Global Compact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have been chosen by the financial services industry to develop and deliver Ethical Literacy training to financial advisers. Between 1 August 2015 and 31 October 2015, more than 400 participants have enrolled in this program. • We are a provider of ethical counselling services to both individuals that are undergoing ethical distress and seek our help (free of charge) and to individuals that have been instructed to undertake education/counsel as part of redressing a breach of their industry's accepted behaviours. • In the last 12 months alone, we have delivered 107 talks, debates, presentations and other events on issues ranging from 'putting a price on the environment' to the 'protection of human rights for refugees'. • We continued to support Primary Ethics, a national ethics program for primary school students, which is designed challenge thinking and equip students with the means to navigate ethical issues. 29,000 students attended this program in the last 12 months alone. • In 2015 we created the Politician's Pledge, a voluntary pledge that political candidates can take as a way of confirming that they will act with ethical restraint. More than 200 candidates have signed the pledge. • Until March 2015, we partnered with GRI to host the GRI Focal Point Australia office, which sought to advance its promulgates partnership with the UNGC on the Global Goals
Disseminate the Global Compact principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our events and the publication of articles on our website and in the Australian media, provide us with a voice on all of the ten Global Compact principles. We estimate that during the period we have reached an audience of more than 1 million readers and attendees.
Engage companies in Global Compact related issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We concur with the Global Compact's view that, 'Corporate sustainability starts with a company's value system and a principled approach to doing business'. During the period we have undertaken a number of consulting assignments for listed companies, privately held companies, not for profit organisations and government in which we specifically address the values and principles that can safely guide an organisation to achieve its purpose. During the period we have worked on more than 69 engagements of this nature. • We collaborated with industry to develop the Banking and Finance Oath (www.thebfo.org) which has the support of senior industry leaders and more than 400 signatories who champion ethical conduct. • We have consulted with organisations in the development of their codes of ethics and statements on human rights and we are pleased to have hosted both Global Reporting Initiative and Sustainable Business Australia (Australian partner for the WBCSD) in our Sydney offices.