

5 October 2017

Dear Mr Secretary General

**UN Global Compact – Communication on Engagement**

Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand has been a signatory to the UN Global Compact since 2011. This second Communication on Engagement highlights activities undertaken between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2017.

I am pleased to confirm that Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand reaffirms its support of the ten principles of the Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe our actions to support the Global Compact principles and engage with the initiative. We also commit to share this information with our stakeholders using our channels of communication.

Yours sincerely



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## About us

Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand is a professional body comprised of over 117,000 diverse, talented and financially astute members who utilise their skills every day to make a difference for businesses the world over.

Members are known for their professional integrity, principled judgment, financial discipline and a forward-looking approach to business, which contributes to the prosperity of our nations.

We focus on the education and lifelong learning of our members, and engage in advocacy and thought leadership in areas of public interest that influence the economy and domestic and international markets.

We are a member of the International Federation of Accountants, and are connected globally through the Global Accounting Alliance and Chartered Accountants Worldwide networks, which bring together leading public accounting organisations in Australia, New Zealand, England and Wales, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland and South Africa to support and promote over 1 million Chartered Accountants in more than 180 countries.

We also have a strategic alliance with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA). The alliance represents 788,000 current and next generation accounting professionals across 181 countries and is one of the largest accounting alliances in the world providing the full range of accounting qualifications to students and business.

## Communication on Engagement

During the last 2 years, we have engaged with, supported and promoted the principles of the Global Compact in a number of ways, as described below.

Areas of engagement	Our actions and outcomes
Deliver education on topics related to the Global Compact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>) Behaving ethically is part of our Capstone model for the CA Program. All candidates are required to pass this module prior to being admitted to membership.</li> <li>) Our CFO of the Future course includes a session covering risk management, ethics, sustainability and integrated reporting. This was held twice during the period as well as two intensive sessions which also covered these topics, they were attended by a total of 328 delegates.</li> <li>) Our 2016 and 2017 conference programs included sessions on corruption, fraud, whistle-blowing, integrated reporting and anti-money laundering attended by 1,347 delegates across both years.</li> <li>) Business Forum 2017 was held in three locations across Australia and New Zealand, with regional forums also held. The theme was Purpose beyond profit and was attended by a total of 782 delegates.</li> <li>) We run ethics training events specifically for our NZ members which were attended by 154 delegates in 2016 and 536 delegates in 2017.</li> <li>) We also held 5 webinars (available live and recorded) on sustainability, integrated reporting and ethics with 535 delegates.</li> </ul>
Conduct research and thought leadership in relation to the Global Compact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>) We provide academic grants on an annual basis. In 2015 and 2016, grants were awarded for individual research projects on integrated reporting and whistleblowing. Additionally final reports were received on integrated reporting and pro-bono professional services work.</li> <li>) We were partners in two Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage projects on carbon modelling and non-financial assurance. These projects delivered their final reports on 30 June 2016 and 30 June 2017 respectively. Both were successful and resulted in the publication of a number of papers and other profiling of the research.</li> <li>) In September 2015, we published our thought leadership paper – <i>Are Australia and New Zealand corrupt?</i> which examined the perception that Australia and New Zealand are nations relatively free of corruption and what there is in place to mitigate it. This was launched at high level roundtable in Sydney and we have distributed 2,000 hard copies.</li> <li>) We published our thought leadership paper – <i>A Question of Ethics</i> in September 2016. The paper investigates themes and findings from global scandals in the banking and financial services industry. This was launched in seven locations around the world to over 1,300 guests and a further 700 watched the launch in New Zealand online. Over 2,000 hard copies have been distributed. The video of the Auckland launch was also included in the ACCA virtual global conference, attracting additional views.</li> </ul>

Disseminate the Global Compact principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>) We continue to promote the IFAC code of ethics to our 117,000 members and students as this represents part of our professional designation and a requirement for membership.</li> <li>) We have published a significant number of blogs on topics connected to the principles across our website and on LinkedIn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Two blogs on the UN SDGs attracted over 11,000 views combined.</li> <li>o Four blogs were published on the subject of climate change and the related risks.</li> <li>o Eight blogs were published on topics related to ethics, bribery and corruption.</li> <li>o A further eight blogs were published in the period on sustainability, diversity and environment related topics.</li> </ul> </li> <li>) We also publish a number of articles on topics related to the Global Compact Principles in our <i>Acuity</i> magazine, both in hard copy and additional articles are included in our online publication.</li> <li>) We were involved in <a href="#">a session</a> in May 2017 in London organised through Chartered Accountants Worldwide to discuss role of the profession in tackling the Sustainable Development Goals.</li> </ul>
Lend capacity to Global Compact Local Networks and/or the Global Compact Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>) We are an active member of the Global Compact Network Australia (GCNA).</li> <li>) We hosted our 2016 Leadership in Government Awards in Canberra in partnership with GCNA. The awards recognise the unique achievements of exceptional leaders in the public service. The theme for the 2016 awards was the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Kofi Annan provided a keynote address via webcast from Geneva and a panel discussion on the SDGs followed. There were 280 in the room to watch and more joined via webcast in office locations and individually.</li> <li>) We contributed to a survey from the GCNA seeking input to their submission to the Australian Parliamentary Inquiry into Modern Slavery.</li> <li>) We are represented at many of the GCNA's activities.</li> </ul>
) Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>) We are members of the Accounting Bodies Network of the Prince of Wales Accounting for Sustainability Project (A4S) and actively engaged in their activities. We hosted Adidas CFO Robin Stalker at events in Sydney and Melbourne and he discussed <a href="#">why social and environmental issues are business issues</a>. We attended the A4S annual forum in December 2015 and November 2016 and promote their activities to our membership.</li> <li>) Our CEO is a member of the International Integrated Reporting Council.</li> <li>) We are a joint founder of Indigenous Accountants Australia and support the 1000 indigenous accountants' initiative.</li> <li>) We coordinate our own charitable giving scheme - Everybody counts.</li> </ul>