



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS™
AUSTRALIA • NEW ZEALAND

8 October 2019

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 third Communication on Engagement highlights the activities undertaken between 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019.

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

Rick Ellis
Chief Executive Officer

About Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand

Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand is a professional body comprised of over 120,000 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 impact the economy and domestic and international markets.

We are a member of the International Federation of Accountants, and are connected globally through the 800,000-strong Global Accounting Alliance and Chartered Accountants Worldwide which brings together leading Institutes in Australia, England and Wales, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland and South Africa to support and promote over 320,000 Chartered Accountants in more than 180 countries.

We also have a strategic alliance with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. The alliance represents 788,000 current and next generation professional accountants 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 of 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
<p>Deliver education on topics related to the Global Compact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We co-hosted the World Congress of Accountants (WCOA) Conference in Sydney in 2018 which had a total of 5,543 delegates from 111 countries. One of the most anticipated sessions included a special message for accountants from HRH the Prince of Wales on their purpose. It featured former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon in a panel discussing the 2018 World Economic Forum Global Risks report, the threat of climate change and what being a global citizen really means in the 21st century. Other relevant sessions covered whistleblowing, ethics and trust. Two pre-conference workshops relating to climate change and the role of accountants and Strategy, decision-making and the UN Sustainable Development Goals attracted over 200 attendees each. • Our 2018 and 2019 conference programs included sessions on fraud, ethical governance, culture, whistleblowing and AML/CFT attended by approx. 1,360 delegates across both years in Australia and New Zealand • Sustainable practice, integrated reporting and ethics continue to be offered to our membership via live and recorded webinars with over 1,700 registrations across Australia and New Zealand. We have held a modern slavery webinar with 1,300 registrations (live and recorded) and co-presented a webinar with the Climate Disclosure Standards Board on climate related risks and TCFD recommendations with over 990 live registrations. • Behaving ethically is part of our Capstone module for the CA Program. All candidates are required to pass this module prior to being admitted to membership.
<p>Conduct research and thought leadership in relation to the Global Compact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of our thought leadership papers can be linked to the UNGC principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Quest for Prosperity (October 2017) is a 3 part series of papers that examines the rankings on the global prosperity index of New Zealand, Australia and the regions (Asia). The papers look at each specific country/region measuring against the nine pillars including economic quality, business environment, governance, education, health, safety and security, social capital and natural environment. Our series of papers link to UNGC principles 7 and 8. - Machines can learn, but what will we teach them? In July 2018. This paper looks at the rise of artificial intelligence, its effect on people's lives, and the need for businesses to have codes of ethics or updated governance guidelines around AI programs. This links back the UNGC principles on Human Rights. - The Future of Trust (February 2019) explores how trust is critical in business and professional relationships and how combining new technology with face-to-face relationships can help improve trust. This links back to UNGC principle 10.

Disseminate the Global Compact Principles

- We have been actively involved (launch events, workshops, discussion groups and various others) with the Commonwealth Climate Law Initiative, Corporate Reporting Dialogue, EU sustainable finance initiative, Accounting for sustainability (A4S), Group of 100, the National Capital Coalition and the IIRC particularly in the areas of SDGs, finance culture, TCFD and climate risk.
- 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 launched a Circle of Practice for CFOs in Australia in partnership with A4S, G100 and CPA Australia including a series of workshops on TCFD. We hosted the A4S chairman, Jessica Fries, in workshops covering TCFD, capital expenditure and finance culture.
- We continue to facilitate many connections between key stakeholders, including government and international organisations, in Australia and New Zealand, particularly in the areas of climate change and integrated reporting.
- We have presented climate risk and achieving ethical outcomes in a robotic age at local conferences.
- We have published a number of blogs on topics on our website, our member magazine (Acuity - [Online](#) and hardcopy) and on LinkedIn that are aligned with the UNGC principles. We also have dedicated climate change risk, sustainable business and modern slavery resource pages on our website.
 - Human Rights: we have published 6 blog posts on human rights and modern slavery and 3 articles on modern slavery in Acuity, which is distributed to our entire membership across Australia and New Zealand as well as to our internationally based members.
 - Labour: In addition to the articles published on modern slavery and transparency in supply chains (mentioned above) we have also published a number of blogs and Acuity articles on technological change and the future of work and changes in labour demands.
 - Environment: we have published 10 blog posts relating to SDGs and climate risk and we have published 9 articles in Acuity on climate change, climate risk, sustainable investment and green finance.
 - Anti-corruption: we have published 8 blog posts and 12 Acuity articles on topics such as ethical leadership, whistleblowing, code of ethics, corruption and the importance of trust

Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to promote the IFAC code of ethics to our 125,000 members and students as this represents part of our professional designation and a requirement for membership. • We are represented on the International Integrated Reporting Council and liaise with the IIRC and other bodies in respect to extended external reporting initiatives and dialogues. • We are a joint founder of Indigenous Accountants Australia and support the 1000 Indigenous accountants' initiative • We coordinate our own charitable giving scheme – Everybody Counts • Our Chartered Accountants Benevolent Foundation allows us to support members of the accounting profession, their families and the wider community. We offer assistance through the Necessitous Circumstances Fund, scholarships for tertiary education, the CA program, the Leading Light Māori Scholarships and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholarships.
-------	--