



Global Compact Network Australia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Nations Global Compact Network Launched in Australia

Canberra, 28 May 2009 – The Australian Network of the UN Global Compact was formally launched today at the 10th National Business Leaders Forum on Sustainable Development at Parliament House, in Canberra by Senator the Hon Nick Sherry (Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law) and Georg Kell (Executive Director of the UN Global Compact).

The UN Global Compact is the world's leading and largest voluntary corporate citizenship initiative. Launched in 2000, the UN Global Compact revolves around 10 principles for business on human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption. The Global Compact has two key purposes being to encourage the integration of its 10 principles into responsible business practice and to garner collective action of the UN Global Compact and its related UN initiatives.

"This is a very significant initiative. At a time when transparency, trust, confidence are emerging as key issues for both business and the community, it is an important and practical step in clearing the path for companies to develop their responsible business practices both locally and internationally." Senator the Hon Nick Sherry (Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law)

Over 5000 business participants from over 130 countries around the world have committed to working towards the principles and communicate on an annual basis to their own stakeholders about their progress. With the launch of the UN Global Compact Network in Australia (housed by St James Ethics Centre) the number of companies becoming signatories to the UN Global Compact is expected to grow.

"St James Ethics Centre will establish a vibrant inclusive Australian Network of UN Global Compact Signatories which will reflect an Australian perspective on the Compact's principles and provide practical help for Australian business to integrate into their business practices." Rosemary Sainty (Head, Responsible Business Practice, St James Ethics Centre)

Recent Australian signatories include Woolworths and Drake International. They join long-standing Australian participants like Westpac, BHP Billiton, Foster's and Allens Arthur Robinson.

For more information or interview enquires contact Rosemary Sainty at rosemary.sainty@ethics.org.au or on 0417 961 036.



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Made possible through funding from the Federal Government as a part of the broader Responsible Business Practice Project, the Australian Focal Point will join a number of key initiatives at the Centre including the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the Corporate Responsibility Index (CRI) to form a national hub from which to expand seeks to engage Australian businesses in identifying and adopting more responsible business practices. The funding for this project was announced by the Prime Minister, the Honourable Kevin Rudd MP on 19 May 2008 at the 9th National Business Leaders Forum on Sustainable Development in Parliament House, Canberra.