

Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Hub e-newsletter!



Responsible Business Practice Initiative

St James Ethics Centre is continuing its work to transition the Responsible Business Practice (RBP) initiative to sustainability, as part of a final round of funding from Federal Treasury to 30 June 2011. The transition encompasses the UN Global Compact, Global Reporting Initiative, Corporate Responsibility Index, Good Business Register and other SME projects.

This quarterly Hub e-newsletter will keep you updated on our progress. Further information can be found at the Hub of Responsible Business Practice in Australia [website](#). Please also feel free to forward any feedback to rbp@ethics.org.au.

New staff

St James Ethics Centre wishes to welcome two new staff members to the RBP team. Sophie O'Dwyer joined us in September as the new Project Manager for the Good Business Register. Sophie's background is in climate science, global change and social change solutions. Sophie is very excited to be part of the Responsible Business community and working with small to medium businesses that are "walking the talk".

In October we also welcomed Jacquie Russell as our new Resource Officer. Jacquie will be supporting the RBP initiative across a range of functions including administration, database and stakeholder relationship management, marketing and event support, as well as updating and maintaining our Hub website. Jacquie's background includes experience in government, private and not for profit sector organisations in Australia and overseas. We are delighted to have both Jacquie and Sophie on board!



Global Compact Network
Australia

Global Compact Network Australia

The Australian Network of the United Nations Global Compact: Global Compact Network Australia (**GCNA**) is committed to a universal set of principles and is on track to meet its vision and mission:

Vision: To become Australia's strongest corporate citizenship movement committed to the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

Mission: To engage the UN Global Compact signatories in Australia through local events and the fostering of a strong, supportive network of like-minded businesses.

The Network is currently transitioning to incorporation with the following Founding Members now established: **Accenture, Allens Arthur Robinson, Australia Post, KPMG, Nestle Australia, St James Ethics Centre, Westpac.**

RECENT EVENTS

Welcome Events for GCNA held in both Melbourne and Sydney, hosted by KPMG in Aug/Sept, including a welcome and networking for signatories, Australian Delegates' feedback highlights from the New York Leaders Summit, update from the Steering Committee and an invitation to participate on working groups. Guest speakers included Rev Tim Costello, CEO World Vision Australia and Mr Eric Falt, Director of the United Nations DPI; Glen Saunders, Board Member and Treasurer of the UN Principles of Responsible Investment (PRI). Read more including references in the [October Newsletter](#).

Australia-Pacific Earth Charter (+10) Festival held in Brisbane, welcoming the Global Compact Network Australia. Run by the Asia Pacific Centre for Sustainable Enterprise at Griffith Business School in partnership with the Earth Charter team at UN Association Queensland and the UN Global Compact Network Australia

Joint event for GCNA with the GRI Australian Focal Point: A Conversation with John Elkington - provocative international sustainability thought leader John Elkington, hosted by Westpac in October. Download the Media Release and Podcast of the Conversation from GCNA's [Network News webpage](#).

Business leadership luncheon and afternoon tea for members, signatories and friends of the GCNA, with Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, the former global Chair of Shell and Anglo-American and current Chair of the Foundation for the Global Compact, hosted by ANZ in November. Corporate sustainability leadership today calls for a sophisticated and comprehensive approach to integrating human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption into business strategy and operations. Read more on GCNA's [Network News webpage](#).

NEWS

Principles for Social Investment: GCNA welcomes the establishment of a Secretariat for the recently launched [Principles for Social Investment](#) (PSI) housed by the Committee for Melbourne. The PSI is focused on social investment i.e. philanthropy, providing guidance to businesses and foundations.

ISO 26000 - The new International Standard ISO 26000 Guidance on Social Responsibility was recently approved and is now due for publication. It provides harmonized, globally relevant guidance for private and public sector organizations. An Introduction to Linkages between UN Global Compact Principles and ISO 26000 Core Subjects has been developed. [Read more here.](#)

For further information or to join the email list for monthly updates please contact Rosemary Sainty, Head, Secretariat, UN Global Compact Network Australia - rsain@ethics.org.au

[more >](#)



Global Reporting Initiative

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) has pioneered the development of the world's most widely used sustainability reporting framework and is committed to its continuous improvement and application worldwide. This framework sets out the principles and indicators that organizations can use to measure and report their economic, environmental, and social performance.

RECENT EVENTS

Who'd Trust the Modern Corporation? presented on 19th October 2010 at Sydney's Museum of contemporary Art, provided an opportunity for leading Australian figures to explore the link between trust, corporate ethics, accountability and transparency; and to refine thinking about the responsibilities of the modern corporation to investors and the wider society in which they are located.

The panel, conducted in a format similar to ABC's Q&A, included Michael Luscombe, CEO, Woolworths Limited; Sanders-Paul Tongeren, Senior Sustainability Specialist, APG Asset Management (Netherlands); Catherine Fox, Deputy Editor, BOSS Magazine; Nick Rowley, Director, Kinesis & Former Climate Advisor to Tony Blair; and Ros Childs, Australian Broadcasting Corporation - panel host. The event saw over 200 delegates come together to discuss key issues around trust, corporate responsibility and transparency. To listen to a recording of the event, [click here](#).

A Conversation with John Elkington

The Global Compact Network Australia (GCNA) together with the Global Reporting Initiative's (GRI) Focal Point Australia held their first joint event in October - a provocative conversation with sustainability thought leader John Elkington hosted by Westpac.

[Download the Media Release](#)
[Download Podcast of the Conversation here](#)

Construction and Real Estate Sector Supplement Workshop

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and GRI Focal Point Australia was delighted to host a Workshop for the Sector and interested stakeholders on 20th October 2010 in Sydney. The event provided an opportunity for the sector to learn more about the [Construction and Real Estate Sector Supplement](#) (CRESS) and feedback directly to the working group through a facilitate discussion. The half day event in Sydney was supported by GPT Group and attended by approximately 25 key industry stakeholders. Members of the GRI CRESS Working Group also took part in the discussion. [Read a summary of the event](#)

Exploring GRI's key propositions in Australia

In August 2010, GRI's Focal Point Australia held two events to discuss the key propositions as set out at the [GRI Global Conference on Sustainability and Transparency](#), which was held in Amsterdam in May 2010.

The events focused on the role of government and the advancement of mandatory reporting in Australia. Attention was also given to the role of GRI in the International Integrated Reporting Committee (IIRC) and the integrated reporting movement as a whole. For more information on the outcomes of discussions on these two propositions, [click here](#).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- ✓ [GRI Announce the development of the G4 Guidelines](#)
- ✓ [GRI and A4S Announce the Formation of the International Integrated Reporting Committee \(IIRC\)](#)
- ✓ [60% Upsurge in GRI reports in 2010](#)
- ✓ [GRI publishes ISO 26000 linkage document on Social Responsibility](#)
- ✓ [New Release easy to use GRI Content Index template in excel for GRI Reporting](#)

For further information please contact Victoria Whitaker, Network Manager Focal Point Australia - Whitaker@GlobalReporting.org

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Corporate Responsibility Index

Transition Update

St James Ethics Centre has licensed the Corporate Responsibility Index (CRI) business management and benchmarking tool for the past 7 years in Australia and New Zealand from its developer Business in the Community (BITC) in the UK.

As this is the final year of Treasury Funding for the RBP initiative it has prompted the Centre to review each project element in terms of sustainability, both strategically and financially. Following this review, the Centre has decided not to renew its Australian/New Zealand CRI licence. BITC is supportive of our decision and has also welcomed the Centre's proposal to seek expressions of interest in the Aus/NZ CRI licence from agreed organisations within Australia.

On 27 September 2010 BITC launched the 2011 Corporate Responsibility Index in cooperation with the Centre - as a Global Index run by BITC directly from the UK for all participating UK, Australian and New Zealand companies.

For further details on the Corporate Responsibility Index please see refer to our [website](#).

New Planning & Development Role

Following this transition, St James Ethics Centre's Corporate Responsibility Index Manager, Sarah Davidson, will now take on a new role as Planning and Development Manager, Responsible Business Practice.

The focus of this new position will be to assist in evolving the Centre's RBP role beyond the fixed term of the Federal Treasury funded project to provide a more sustainable and valuable long term proposition for our stakeholders. Sarah is presently in the process of obtaining feedback from many of you and any additional thoughts are most welcome.

For further information or to provide your feedback and suggestions please contact Sarah Davidson, Planning & Development Manager, Responsible Business Practice - sarah.davidson@ethics.org.au

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Good Business Register

The Good Business Register (GBR) was developed in 2008 after receiving funding from the Australian Federal Government. The purpose of the GBR is to engage Australian small to medium businesses (SMEs) in identifying and adopting more responsible business practices.

The GBR was developed in partnership with Australian corporate responsibility leaders (ANZ, BHP Billiton, Energy Australia, Toyota and Westpac) and other Australian stakeholders from business, government and civil society including CPA Australia, Ernst & Young, Macquarie University, and Telstra. This diverse group helped formulate and identify the most material issues to SMEs in Australia.

The GBR has 5 Principles listed below:

Principle 1: Financial Sustainability

Operate our business in an economically sustainable manner

Principle 2: Workplace

Provide a workplace that supports worker and employee wellbeing and inclusiveness

Principle 3: Supply Chain

Promote responsible business practice throughout the supply chain

Principle 4: Stakeholders & Community

Actively engage with our community and other stakeholders

Principle 5: Environment

Minimise the impact of our business activities on the environment

These Principles and the associated Reporting template were specifically tailored to meet the needs of the Australian SME market.

The GBR is an online platform with a dual purpose:

- 1. to provide a free online sustainability and socially responsible reporting tool to SMEs**
- 2. to provide an open Register that allows potential clients and the public to view the SME reports in a transparent manner**

The GBR has just completed a 12 month pilot phase. This has been very successful with over 250 SMEs signing up and using the reporting tool.

Annual Survey Results

Recently all GBR clients were asked to respond to the annual online survey. Thank you to all those people who took the time in their busy schedules to respond. Your answers are a valuable resource to us so we can continue to learn and improve the program. Please click here for more information including [key findings](#).

For further information please contact Sophie O'Dwyer, Project Manager, Good Business Register - sophie.odwyer@ethics.org.au

[more >](#)

Upcoming Events



Global Compact Network
Australia

Human Rights Working Group for Business - Kick off on Friday 10 December 2010 (Human Rights Day), hosted by Allens Arthur Robinson. Increasingly businesses are expected to support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights, as well as make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses. To help, GCNA has established a Human Rights Working Group for Business to facilitate shared learning amongst Australian businesses on human rights challenges and opportunities by providing practical guidance through expert facilitators and concrete tools, as well as a forum for best practice sharing. The Group will meet quarterly under Chatham House rules. [Read more here.](#)



Sustainability Reporting for SMEs - Practical Experiences of SMEs with the Global Reporting Initiative

Date: 8.45am – 11.00am, Wednesday 24th November 2010

Venue: Net Balance, Level 4, 460 Bourke Street, Melbourne

This seminar will provide SME's with a basic introduction to the world's leading sustainability reporting framework, the Global Reporting Initiative's G3 Guidelines, and will share with you the practical lessons and experiences of small and medium sized companies in using the framework.

GRI's G3 Guidelines provides SMEs with a framework by which to guide, understand and communicate on meaningful sustainability activities.

The benefits hundreds of SMEs internationally have already found in using the guidelines include: Competitive advantage & leadership; improved client relationships; improve internal processes & goal setting; enhanced reputation & trust; and participation in a global network.

Understanding how to report against GRI's G3 Framework will help you not only better understand your sustainability impacts, but will enable you to communicate to your clients in a way that they understand, because they use the same framework!

To learn more and register for this event [click here.](#)

[more >](#)

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The National Responsible Business Practice initiative is funded by Federal Treasury.

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