

Welcome to the HUB

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

In this edition you will find updates on the Global Reporting Initiative Australian Focal Point a year on from consultation, exciting news on the Good Business Register and information on the Corporate Responsibility Index.

The HUB is a consolidated space for engagement, interaction and connectivity to build communities of responsible business practice (RBP) in Australia. Funded by the Federal Government, through Treasury, St James Ethics Centre houses the RBP project and we hope that through inclusive conversation we can make the way clear for businesses of all sizes and provide a national coordinated entry point. To keep you updated on the project we will be sending you this e-newsletter quarterly. Please feel free to send feedback and comments to [Amanda Armstrong](#).

To read more about the RBP Project, please click [here](#). To learn more about the work of St James Ethics Centre, please click [here](#).



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United Nations Global Compact

A commitment to a universal set of principles

The foundational year for the Australian Network of the UN Global Compact draws to a close with an increase of signatories in Australia by more than 50%.

As events in Copenhagen now unfold, Federal Treasurer The Hon Wayne Swan MP (last Friday Dec 4) acknowledged the UN Global Compact as one of an important group of responsible business practice initiatives supported by the government: "The Government has also taken action to promote corporate social responsibility and responsible practices here in Australia. We have supported the St James Ethics Centre to house the Australian focal point for the Global Reporting Initiative and the UN Global Compact, and provided \$2.5 million to the Responsible Investment Association of Australasia to establish a world-first Responsible Investment Academy."

On the same day the UN General Assembly reaffirmed the critical role of the private sector in supporting UN goals and has recognised the central function of the Global Compact (agenda item 59: Towards Global Partnerships).

In anticipation of constructive outcomes of the COP15 Copenhagen meetings, and the commencement of the Global Compact Network Australia strategic activities in the New Year, Seasons Greetings!

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Global Reporting Initiative

International framework in sustainability reporting

It has been a year since consultation with Organizational Stakeholders (OS) on the Focal Point and GRI network in Australia, and eight months since the role of Network Manager officially started.

Key highlights for the role so far include a national roll out of introductory workshops with nearly 200 participants; meetings with over 60 organisations and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) joining the Media Sector Supplement Working Group. A further two Australians have been elected to the Australia GRI's Stakeholder Council and Australia and New Zealand's first training partner was announced. We have kept the OS network up to date via regular correspondence and the Network Manager has met with over 30 of them so far. To celebrate and bring the network together we have held events for current and interested OS and reporters in December 2009.

Planning is already underway for activities next year which will include further events such as introductory workshops; and Sector Specific and Technical events in conjunction with the GRI Secretariat. In exciting news the GRI Amsterdam conference will be held in May 2010 and we are currently seeking those who are interested in joining an Australian delegation. For more information and to register please [click here](#).

2010 EVENT

Event: GRI introductory workshop

Date: Thursday 21st January

Location: Stockland, 133 Castlereagh St, Sydney

Time: 9am-1pm

For further details and registration visit [the HUB](#)

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Corporate Responsibility Index

Robust management and benchmarking tool

The Seventh Annual Corporate Responsibility Index (CRI) for Australia and New Zealand was launched online on 13 October 2009. This year all of our participating companies registered for the Public Index rather than the Private Index, thus indicating an increased willingness to publicly disclose their results. We congratulate our 2009 CRI participants on their demonstrated commitment to transparency and accountability in their corporate responsibility performance!

Following the 2009 Index launch, CRI Training Workshops were held in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, and also via webinar for our participants in New Zealand. A new CRI Readiness Review service was also introduced this year by PricewaterhouseCoopers, to assist interested 2009 CRI participants and prospective 2010 CRI participants.

Our 2009 CRI participants submitted their survey responses online on the 8 December. This year the validation of survey submissions for our Australian CRI participants will be undertaken by the Index developer and licensor, Business in the Community (UK).

2009 has been a significant year for the CRI in Australia and New Zealand. A sincere thank you must be extended to all of our CRI participants, the CRI Leaders Network, the CRI Advisory Group, and the Index teams at PricewaterhouseCoopers and Business in the Community. Your tremendous patience, dedication and support has been greatly appreciated!

For further information please either visit the CRI website or contact Sarah Davidson, Manager, Corporate Responsibility Index - sarah.davidson@ethics.org.au

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Small to Medium Enterprises

Launch of the Good Business Register: The National Register of Responsible Business Practice

The Good Business Register: the national register of responsible business practice was launched in Sydney on 1 December.

The Good Business Register is an online platform (developed by St James Ethics Centre and funded by the Federal Government through Treasury) which will enable small to medium enterprise (SMEs) to engage with the responsible and sustainable business practice agenda. The development of the Good Business Register represents a major national collaboration - drawing on sustainable supply chain practices of corporate leaders: ANZ, EnergyAustralia, Toyota and Westpac consulted by Ernst & Young, tested in focus groups of SMEs and procurers by ARIES, advanced by CPA Australia and Telstra and supported by business.gov.au and the Council of Small Business of Australia.

To find more please [click here](#). Click here to visit the [Good Business Register](#).

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Consultation on ISO 26000

Forum Consultation on ISO 2600 - Social Responsibility with Rosemary Sainty, NGO Expert on Australian Committee and Deni Greene, Project Editor and member of the Integrated Drafting Task Force of the Working Group on Social Responsibility.

The International Organization for Standardization is currently seeking its final round of feedback on the DRAFT INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ISO/DIS 26000 - Guidance on Social Responsibility, through its country standards bodies which have formed 'mirror' committees. The Australian Committee is managed by Standards Australia and as the NGO member Rosemary Sainty is seeking final feedback from Australian NGO stakeholders by 11 January 2010. The final ISO vote is due on 14 February 2010. Click here to read more and provide feedback: <http://thehub.ethics.org.au/event/details/id/28>

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