



Global Compact Network Australia



National Consultation Sessions Local Network Development UN Global Compact (UNGC) Australian Local Network

Results

With an excellent and enthusiastic turnout of Australian-based UN Global Compact signatories at Consultation Sessions held in Sydney and Melbourne, a range of notable points of action emerged under themes relating to two broad questions, as listed below.

Question One: What is the value proposition in joining the Australian Local Network?

Theme One: Information source for members

- Repository of information could be created, accessible only to Network members, concerning such matters as: how to implement the compact and who in the company needs to be involved; templates for procurement or other aspects of implementation (practical tools); event information and other opportunities to network; member information that could be shared with others or examples of best practice / anecdotes; definitions (such as acronyms) and how they apply; and corruption / bribery information / advice for Australian businesses with overseas operations
- Continual sharing of information via online discussion, possibly using a discussion tool such as the [Base Camp](#) software, or an online forum on the HUB, or simply via email (the former is likely to be least cumbersome and would require no monetary contribution from members) – may have as an option the opportunity for members to be able to add to the repository themselves (a 'wiki' structure)
- Could use the HUB to educate other non-signatories and / or non-member signatories about sustainability principles and activating the vision that it is possible, and preferable, to do business differently – with the aim of having them join the network

Theme two: Opportunity to influence the Government at state and federal levels

- Possible integration of other Government requirements related to sustainability such as quality (ISO) standards
- Network to provide an opportunity for dialogue and for industry to be involved with policy formulation: powerful combination of stakeholders together in the network
- Network not intended as a lobby group; government takes notice when business takes the lead for themselves

Theme three: Credibility and monitoring of commitments to the principles of the Global Compact within the network

- Ideal to develop a critical mass in terms of size and number of network participants
- Possible use for secretariat for monitoring purposes
- Extend network to other major capitals and regional Australia
- The network can itself help businesses to be recognized for their CSR work

Theme four: Convergence in reporting standards

- Network can take a leadership role in convergence in sustainability reporting standards (between, eg, GRI, DJSI, SAI Global, etc) that are crucial in order to translate the principles of the Global Compact into a COP

- Take initial steps such as setting a timeline and evaluating alternative standards – with emphasis on the GRI

Question Two: What structure should the Network take?

Theme one: Need for simplicity

- Network should make it as easy as possible to network and should also 'demystify' any confusion around any aspect of the Compact
- Not a theoretical think tank – practical emphasis on information and activities
- Keeping the structure simple and practical should enhance the opportunity to involve SMEs – governance should be as open and democratic as possible

Theme two: Establishing a Working Group

- A Working Group would be useful in order to; canvass and evaluate alternative governance structures; grow momentum amongst the business community; show the value proposition for SMEs; and distill broader dialogue
- A Working Group should come back to the wider group with a range of options for how the network might be set up – potential network models (governance, meeting frequency, funding etc)
 - On the topic of funding, in-kind contributions were raised as possible substitutes for monetary funding (for example, agreeing to host meetings)

Theme three: Structure and purpose of meetings

- 'Informal' structure preferred to meetings in that members would 'take turns' to host
- Ample use should be made of technology where possible so as to enable the broadest means of communication (for example, conferencing via telephone or video)
- Meetings can be opportunities for education, for example on sustainability issues or on issues relating to compliance with the Global Compact, and should where possible provide a means of networking
- Potential frequency of meetings raised but not defined as yet

Organisations Represented at Consultations

Sydney Session	Melbourne Session
Allens Arthur Robinson	ANZ Banking Corporation
Drake International	B4MD
Ernst & Young	BP Australia
Generation Alliance	Clayton Utz
Griffith University	Coffex Coffee
Dr. Heather Peirce	EPA Victoria
KPMG	Fairtrade
Lend Lease Corporation	Hewlett Packard
MBA Solutions	Intrepid Travel
Office of The Hon Nick Sherry, Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law	Pacific Hydro
Pricewaterhouse Coopers	Precimax Plastics
Responsible Investment Association Australasia	RMIT
SGSDA Trade & Investment	St James Ethics Centre
St James Ethics Centre	Telstra
UBS AG	UN Global Compact Office
UN Global Compact Office	University of Melbourne
University of Sydney	ANZ Banking Corporation
Vodafone Australia	B4MD
Westpac Banking Corporation	BP Australia
Apologies: Nestle Australia, Unilever Australia, Veolia	Apologies: ACCSR, AusAID, Cadbury Schweppes, National Australia Bank, Transfield Services