



Australian National Contact Point

for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises



Australian Government

The Treasury

AusNCP Annual Outlook



Message from the Executive

It is my pleasure to present this inaugural **AusNCP Annual Outlook** — a new initiative of the Australian National Contact Point capturing our recent achievements and upcoming work plan. This product supplements our

annual report to the OECD (available at www.AusNCP.gov.au).

Following the November 2018 announcement of our restructure, this year we will introduce a new **Independent Examiner** to preside over all new cases and a new **Governance and Advisory Board**, that will include four non-government members as well as representatives from key government agencies. By increasing our transparency, expertise and stakeholder networks, we aim to ensure that the AusNCP delivers more effectively on its domestic and international obligations. Thank you to all our stakeholder partners for your encouragement and ideas, which are reflected in our redesign.

Our vision for the year includes **delivering on our commitments** and **building stronger connections**, including exploring opportunities to embed the promotion of responsible business conduct (RBC) within our partner organisations. Last year we participated in over 23 formal meetings and events (locally and abroad), so please help us maintain this momentum by engaging us early in your event planning.

We have actively progressed all our specific instance cases and our **procedural guidance** will be updated again to account for the new Independent Examiner, ensuring it is fit for purpose. I encourage both notifiers and businesses to contribute feedback throughout each stage of a case so we can address any concerns promptly.

Finally, I would like to thank our stakeholders for their input to, and encouragement of, our new direction this year, and my AusNCP team members for the enthusiastic way they are revitalising the AusNCP function.

Ms Victoria Anderson
Senior Executive Officer

2019 Engagement

Focus areas

- Recruitment: AusNCP Independent Examiner
- Nominations: AusNCP Governance and Advisory Board members
- Updated procedures (including consultation)
- First AusNCP Board meeting
- Finalise two cases and one follow-up currently on hand

Anticipated events (to be confirmed)

- NCP Network meetings, Paris
- OECD Global Forum on RBC (GFRBC)
- Government and civil society annual events on RBC

Other events and ongoing activity

- OECD Investment Committee (IC) and Working Party for RBC meetings, Paris
- Prepare for peer review, 2020
- Commence follow up on ANZ case
- AusNCP annual report to the OECD

2018 Engagement

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| Jan | Case 9, Ansell follow up commenced |
| Feb | Annual report to the OECD |
| Mar | OECD IC, substantiated claim |
| Apr | Case 16, final statement published |
| May | AusNCP committee meeting |
| Jun | Stakeholder consultation, Melbourne
OECD NCP meeting & GFRBC, Paris |
| Jul | New procedures published |
| Sep | Meeting with the Japanese NCP, Tokyo |
| Oct | Case 11, ANZ final statement published |
| Nov | OECD IC, substantiated claim
AusNCP-hosted OECD visit
GCNA/AHRC Dialogue & other events
AusNCP restructure announced |
| | AusNCP Committee meeting |
| Dec | Preliminary restructure consultations |

Year in Review

In 2018, the AusNCP continued on its journey of improvement by considering and responding to the 2017 Independent Review. Our commitments include:

2019 Restructure

In 2019, all new cases will be managed by an Independent Examiner, who will be supported by a new Governance and Advisory Board.

Revised procedures

Revised procedures for handling specific instances were introduced in July 2018 and will be reviewed again to align with the AusNCP's 2019 restructure.

Refreshed website

The AusNCP website was refreshed to improve accessibility, with new features including a case tracker and specific instance submission form to assist notifiers. The visibility of the function was also enhanced with refreshed branding.

Specific Instance Cases

In 2018, the AusNCP handled five cases and received its first request to follow-up. Revised procedures, additional resourcing and advice from the AusNCP Committee, international peers and the OECD Secretariat, have led to significant improvements to case handling.



Australian Connections

There has been a growing focus in Australia on corporate conduct and effective governance. Parliament passed legislation requiring companies to report on **modern slavery** risks in their operations and supply chains. A spotlight was also placed on misconduct in the financial services sector through the banking **Royal Commission**.

The existing AusNCP Oversight Committee has provided a network and a forum for government agencies to discuss the AusNCP and initiatives relevant to responsible business conduct policy, such as those above.

In 2018, the AusNCP also sought to build stronger connections with the **Australian Human Rights Commission** noting the strong focus on human rights in specific instance cases.

International Connections

The global NCP network provides an opportunity to discuss and share experiences in applying the OECD Guidelines.

In 2018, the AusNCP looked to its global peers in considering the revision of procedures and to explore different administrative structures. The AusNCP also engaged with the OECD Investment Committee's review of the AusNCP's handling of a historical case through the substantiated submission process.

In November, the AusNCP helped to host a visit from Cristina Tébar-Less, head of the OECD's Responsible Business Conduct Unit. Ms Tébar-Less participated in several events promoting the OECD Guidelines in Australia.

The AusNCP has fostered a relationship with the New Zealand NCP. As our closest NCP neighbour, we've welcomed their attendance at events in Australia and the ability to discuss key issues with an NCP that has a similar regional context and challenges. The AusNCP also met with the Japanese NCP in September 2018 and welcomes the OECD's interest in supporting responsible business conduct in the Asia-Pacific region.

