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United Nations Global Compact

Communication on Progress 2021



CourtHeath
Consulting

COVERING EVERY ANGLE WITH INTEGRITY

PO Box 2444, Kew 3101
E pauline.bernard@courtheath.com.au
T 0418 825 109
www.courtheath.com.au



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STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

I am pleased to reaffirm CourtHeath's support for the United Nations Global Compact's Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

Covering the period from 14 November 2020 to 12 November 2021, this sixth annual Communication on Progress outlines steps taken by CourtHeath to integrate the Global Compact and its principles into our business strategy, culture and daily operations. We also commit to transparency in sharing this information with our stakeholders through our primary communication channels.

CourtHeath is a small consulting firm based in Melbourne, Naarm, Australia. Our business provides probity and procurement advice and associated services to government departments and agencies, local government and not-for-profit organisations. We uphold the principles of the UN Global Compact in our own small-scale operations and have enshrined these principles in our business processes.

However, we anticipate that our greatest impact will be our ability to influence the practices and purchasing approaches of public sector agencies, so that government behaviour upholds the Global Compact's principles. This is likely to be primarily in the areas of:

- anti-corruption training, awareness raising (integrity, anti-corruption, whistle-blower protections, etc), upholding labour rights in the supply chain (through our procurement work and particularly through government Social Procurement initiatives which also address human rights and environmental sustainability).

CourtHeath supports human rights initiatives relevant to our sphere of operation including workplace diversity and gender equity (including family violence leave and gender pay equity objectives). We also support clients that promote environmental initiatives in Victoria.

In 2016 we commenced this journey, establishing our presence in the Victorian public sector as a Global Compact participant and an ethical and values-based organisation. We developed a website giving prominence to the UN Global Compact. Having been appointed to panels providing us access to government probity and procurement business, we are able to raise awareness of the UN Global Compact principles with government purchasers and policy makers.

During 2021, CourtHeath was pleased to observe public sector departments and agencies in Victoria, Australia continuing to implement the government's Social Procurement Framework effective from 1 September 2018 and has joined a Roundtable to improve its efficacy.

The social procurement framework objectives span ten areas:

1. Opportunities for Victorian Aboriginal People
2. Opportunities for Victorians with disability
3. Women's equality and safety
4. Opportunities for disadvantaged Victorians
5. Supporting safe and fair workplaces
6. Sustainable Victorian social enterprise
7. Sustainable Victorian regions
8. Environmentally sustainable outputs
9. Environmentally sustainable business practices
10. Implementation of the Climate Change Policy Objectives.





Pauline Bernard

Pauline Bernard
Managing Director

November 2021

1. HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLES

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

1.1. ASSESSMENT, POLICY AND GOALS

CourtHeath is committed to respecting human rights in its work. Despite being a small consulting organisation, which does not have direct experience of human rights violations, we aim to encourage government agencies to engage in ethical purchasing and effective social procurement. This approach emphasises propriety in allocating public funds to further human rights, the creation of positive and sustainable social externalities, and the mitigation of inequality through empowerment of disadvantaged communities.

More broadly, we endorse the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and aim to incorporate its standards in our policy and practice. Through rigorous due diligence, we pledge to avoid infringing the rights of others, and to take steps to avoid negative human rights impacts resulting from our work. We will adhere to international human rights standards in our activities and our relationships. This includes taking steps towards respect, protection and fulfilment for such rights as freedom of association and collective bargaining; the effective elimination of child labour and modern slavery; the elimination of all forms of racial and gender discrimination; and the realisation of a workplace which positively empowers its employees and people of the broader world without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, physical ability, or mental illness.

Beyond these basic commitments, we intend to implement measures, which positively contribute to the realisation of human rights, in particular through the creation of a diverse, inclusive and accessible workplace. We believe this pledge places us in line with best-practice international standards regarding human rights.

Among the human rights risks in the government procurement sector in which our clients operate are discrimination against disadvantaged groups based on gender, disability, race or ethnicity. Our specific human rights goals are to achieve improved effectiveness of ethical procurement as measured by purchasing agencies including effective tendering provisions. Our participation in the University of Melbourne Social Procurement Roundtable conducted by the Melbourne School of Government that commenced in October 2020 will further this goal. Other attendees include: academics, state and local government, contractors, social benefit suppliers and social enterprise representatives. This supplements a program to evaluate the effectiveness of social procurement and explore opportunities to further improve government policy and practice.





“Our specific human rights goals are to achieve improved effectiveness of ethical procurement as measured by purchasing agencies including effective tendering provisions.”



1.2. IMPLEMENTATION

We have offered all staff practical ethics training provided by the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply, which has raised staff awareness of human rights risks in procurement supply chain management. We have also trained CourtHeath staff about the Global Compact and its Ten Principles. CourtHeath has articulated responsibilities to respect, protect and fulfil human rights in the *Our People* policy. The Managing Director, ensuring strong leadership on human rights issues within the company, oversees this policy personally.

We have promoted the Victorian government's Social Procurement Framework, assisting clients to tailor their tender schedules to elicit responses from tenderers that will facilitate involvement in projects of disadvantaged Victorians.

1.3. MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES

This is our sixth year as a member of the UN Global Compact.

We have a diverse staff whose needs we strive to accommodate, providing employment for:

- Victorians with disability 1,950 hours annually
- Victorian Aboriginal people 1,150 hours annually.

We have contributed to social justice initiatives globally via our various communication channels.

We have a publicly available [complaints policy](#) to ensure accountability for human rights issues within our small company and would deal with alleged human rights issues through this confidential mechanism in accordance with *Our People and Culture* policy.

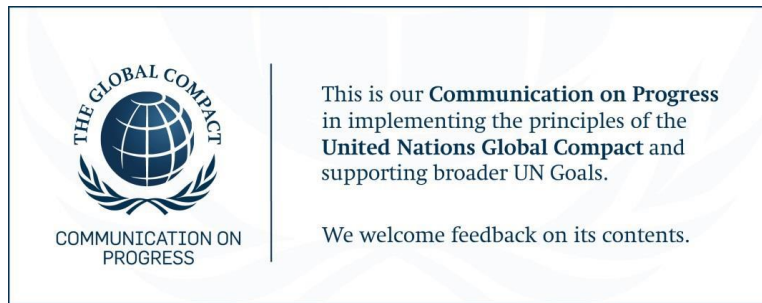
From our complaints policy:

CourtHeath Consulting encourages a workplace with appropriate, ethical conduct, and recognises the right for complaints to be made about the conduct of our people, including employees and contractors. CourtHeath Consulting will take all reasonable steps to protect those involved in a complaint from any victimisation, as a result of such a complaint.

Complaints will be managed confidentially, discreetly and courteously, and all records pertaining to complaints will be held in confidence.

This Policy applies to CourtHeath Consulting personnel as well as clients and members of the public who make complaints relating to CourtHeath Consulting or to CourtHeath Consulting personnel.

Our Reconciliation Action Plan states: At CourtHeath, our vision for reconciliation is to support and provide opportunities for the First Peoples of Australia. As employers, suppliers and consumers we have a tri-partite role to promote reconciliation and self-determination for the Aboriginal community, in a culturally sensitive and safe manner. We recognise that our business is small, but we lead by example and embrace and celebrate Aboriginal people, influencing others to do the same. One of our Principal Consultants is an Aboriginal woman who is committed to learn more about her culture and help us to do the same.



Our awareness raising activities relevant to this area have included publishing the following blog:



- **IWD 2021 – A global call to action**

Monday, 8 March marked International Women’s Day (IWD). The theme, #ChooseToChallenge, was a global call to action in the name of gender equality. “A challenged world is an alert world,” said IWD organisers, “and from challenge comes change. So let’s all choose to challenge... hand up high to show you’re in.”

According to the World Economic Forum’s *Global Gender Gap Report 2020*, it will take a staggering 99.5 years to instil gender parity across education, health, politics and all forms of economic participation. The challenge: How can we help create this gender equal world when the ingrained complexity of patriarchy still affects hundreds of millions of women worldwide? In this blog we linked to a number of IWD Missions to help with this challenge including [Celebrate tech women and innovation](#), [Build inclusive workplaces so women thrive](#) and [Forge women’s empowerment worldwide](#). We also discussed the [Women’s Empowerment Principles](#), and talked about how women leaders were making a difference, particularly in female-led countries and COVID-19 responses.

<https://www.courtheath.com.au/iwd-2021-a-global-call-to-action>

(Image: Used under licence from [shutterstock](#))



2. LABOUR PRINCIPLES

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation

2.1. ASSESSMENT, POLICY AND GOALS

In keeping with the pursuit of equitable, transparent and accountable government and corporate institutions, CourtHeath recognises the importance of collective and individual labour rights. We affirm our commitment to the International Labour Organisation's Core Conventions, especially to the freedoms of association and collective bargaining and freedom from all forms of employment discrimination.

Our work aims to promote ethical sourcing and procurement, working towards the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour, as well as the effective abolition of child labour.

We have a diverse staff whose needs we strive to accommodate.

We embrace flexible working hours and working from home, where this is the choice of the staff member in question.

We are committed to providing compensation and benefits for employees, for instance in the case of workplace injuries.

Our policy encourages adherence to the UN Global Compact labour principles from our business partners and suppliers.

CourtHeath staff members have participated in committees advocating inclusion, for example digital accessibility for people with a disability and diversity in the legal profession.

2.2. IMPLEMENTATION

We have offered all staff practical ethics training provided by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, which has raised staff awareness of labour rights risks in procurement supply chain management. We have also trained CourtHeath staff about the Global Compact and its Ten Principles.





2.3. MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES

CourtHeath is a small consulting organisation which has had no reported incidents of labour rights violations.

Our awareness raising activities relevant to this area have included publishing the following blog:



- **Vic Gov, people with disability & IDPWD 2020**

To commemorate the 2020 International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD) theme: *Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID 19 World*, we outlined the [*Getting to work: Victorian public sector disability employment action plan 2018-2025*](#) and explored how the [*Social Procurement Framework*](#) could benefit Victorians with disability. We also discussed next steps in the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 that gives all governments a national framework aimed at improving the lives of people with disability, their families and carers.

Since the plan's implementation, the Australian Government has consulted widely with people with disability, their families, and carers from diverse backgrounds to develop a [*National Disability Strategy*](#) beyond 2020.

<https://www.courtheath.com.au/vic-gov-people-with-disability-idpwd-2020/>

(Image: IDPWD)



3. ENVIRONMENT PRINCIPLES

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

3.1. ASSESSMENT, POLICY AND GOALS

CourtHeath has a publicly available environmental policy outlining its commitment and approach to environmental sustainability. This Policy can be accessed through our website at www.courtheath.com.au.

We are committed to improving environmental performance across all of our business activities, and encourage our business partners and members of the wider community to share that commitment.

We practice sustainable procurement, purchasing goods and services that are less damaging to the environment and human health. As a small business, the major items we purchase (other than during the various 2021 COVID-19 lockdown periods when all staff have been required by law to work from home) are commuter transport services, stationery and power.

In its professional advisory services, CourtHeath has made a commitment to promote environmental sustainability. Where appropriate, we seek to educate and influence others (clients, community and sub-contractors). We are mindful of the opportunities that government purchasers have to set behavioural expectations of suppliers and the supply chain. This opportunity often arises in our procurement advice and particularly as we are drafting market invitation documents. We work with our clients to ensure that the specifications they publish reflect current best practice and identify suitable alternatives (both goods and services) which are environmentally friendly such as energy saving, recycled content, water saving, low toxicity or other significant attributes.

We can direct clients to the full range of activities related to purchasing goods and services ranging from contracting for an entire service to purchasing small assets such as office equipment. Green purchasing spans the entire life cycle of the product or service from inception and design through to contract management and disposal of any redundant assets.

3.2. MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES

We aim to use the following criteria to measure our progress on environmental sustainability goals:

- Ensuring that our office equipment and stationery (including lighting and paper products) are sourced sustainably
- Ensuring that suppliers (such as website hosting providers and office providers) meet sustainability standards relevant to their various operations
- Ensuring that our transport arrangements are sustainable where possible.



Our awareness raising activities relevant to this area included continuing a major commitment to fighting climate change:



Victoria's climate change pledge

TAKE2 is Victoria's collective climate change program supporting individuals, government, business and other organisations to help the state achieve net zero emissions by 2050. ([Source](#)) CourtHeath took the TAKE2 pledge in 2018, making a public commitment to tackle climate change as stated on our [TAKE2 profile page](#).

Our pledge in part is to “improve our environmental performance across all our business activities, and encourage our business partners and members of the wider community to do the same. We practice sustainable procurement, purchasing goods and services that are less damaging to the environment and human health.”

In addition to our TAKE-2 pledge, our awareness raising activities around the Environmental principle also includes publishing the following blogs:



- **Elevating ambition for collective action**

The UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2021 was an important step toward creating a global roadmap for greater sustainable development. CourtHeath was honoured to be part of the 20,000+ strong global contingent from 180+ countries that attended. Over 26 hours, the virtual Summit offered a platform for business leaders, government representatives, academia, civil society and the United Nations to “engage in a crucial global conversation at the crucial time,” said Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations, in his opening comments. Addressing the converging crises of climate change, the COVID-19 global pandemic, social and economic inequality, and corruption, the Summit aimed to find new ways to achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) and the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) in an increasingly uncertain world.

<https://www.courtheath.com.au/elevating-ambition-for-collective-action>

(Image: Used under licence from [shutterstock](#))

Earth Day 2021 (part one and part two)

We published two blogs to commemorate Earth Day 2021 and its events including the Global Climate Summit, Teach for the Planet: Global Education Summit, and Earth Day Live, that included workshops, panels and performances that focussed on the Day's theme, *Restore Our Earth™*. Earth Day has been observed on 22 April annually since 1970, and with more than one billion people in 192 countries participating in Earth Day activities each year, it has become the largest civic observance in the world.



<https://www.courtheath.com.au/earth-day-2021-part-one/>

<https://www.courtheath.com.au/earth-day-2021-part-two/>

3.3. IMPLEMENTATION

We communicate our own environmental practices and achievements to our customers with a view to encouraging environmental impact considerations in procurement activities. Initiatives undertaken by our organisation in reducing our environmental impact include:

- We use low energy LED lights to reduce electricity and corresponding greenhouse emissions.
- We use recycled paper products where possible. We recycle paper and printer cartridges. We dispose of our e-waste including redundant equipment through recycling depots. We print double-sided to save paper.
- We have purchased re-useable “keep cups” for our staff and encourage their use as well as the re-use of coffee trays.
- We have retained the services of a secure document destruction service provider that practices recycling.
- We chose Crucial, our web host, for its environmental credentials, supporting eco-friendly business and donating to the ‘Plant a Billion Trees’ initiative as well as The Nature Conservancy Australia through its carbon offset program. In 2013/2014 Crucial offset its entire year of carbon emissions by sponsoring the Tasmanian Native Forest Protection project “Climate Friendly”. This project sponsors jobs for Australian workers and assists with the protection of large tracts of land and wildlife.





Our web host, Crucial, supports eco-friendly business and continually donates to The Nature Conservancy Australia through its carbon-offset program.

Image used under licence from [shutterstock](#) shows a panoramic view of the coastal wetland against the blue sea on the outskirts of Naarm, Melbourne's urban area.



4. ANTI-CORRUPTION

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

4.1. ASSESSMENT, POLICY AND GOALS

It is CourtHeath's policy to pursue all its business transactions in an honest and ethical manner. In doing business anywhere in the world, neither CourtHeath nor any person associated with it may offer, pay, promise, authorise or receive any bribe, kickback or illicit payment.

CourtHeath has a zero-tolerance policy for corruption, bribery and extortion. We actively promote awareness about anti-corruption practices amongst our public sector clients.

Our goals over the next year are to continue to provide education for all staff and relevant clients about corruption, as well as what to do if one should encounter it.

4.2. MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES

CourtHeath aims to make measurable progress according to the following criteria:

- Participation in anti-corruption dialogues and events
- Raising awareness of corruption and probity issues through training, social media and stakeholder engagement
- Assisting clients to achieve transparent and accountable probity processes.



4.3 IMPLEMENTATION

On 10 November, 2021, we attended the virtual presentation of the 2021 Australian Dialogue on Business and Human Rights – Plenary: *How the Pandemic is Re-shaping Human Rights for Business*. The panel, which was facilitated by Vanessa Zimmerman (Global Compact Network Australia) discussed the challenges businesses are facing in implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights during the global Covid-19 pandemic, and offered ways business could work collectively to help create a new path that honoured both people and the planet.

We have also contributed to the local and global conversation around anti-corruption initiatives, including publishing the following blogs:



- Comfortable disclosing conflicts of interests?



In this blog, we explored how VPS managers and executives felt about completing a conflict of interest disclosure form when they are involved in procurement – particularly about disclosing conflicts of duty that may be perceived to arise from work-related dealings with service providers.

<http://www.courtheath.com.au/comfortable-disclosing-conflicts-of-interest/>

(Image: Used under licence from [shutterstock](#))

- **2021 Dialogue: Implementing a holistic approach to risk (part one and two)**

On 9 August 2021, CourtHeath attended the 6th Annual Australian Dialogue on Bribery and Corruption. Co-hosted by the [Global Compact Network Australia](#) and [Allens](#), the online event offered an invaluable opportunity for participants to hear leaders in anti-bribery and corruption, compliance and governance, discuss the importance of responsible business conduct through integrated risk management. Our two-part blog series provided an outline of the 2021 Dialogue, and an overview of the keynote and panel presentations, paying special attention to the importance of embedding ethical leadership and a holistic risk and compliance approach to business.

<http://www.courtheath.com.au/2021-dialogue-implementing-a-holistic-approach-to-risk-part-2>

<http://www.courtheath.com.au/2021-dialogue-implementing-a-holistic-approach-to-risk-part-one>

- **Preventing corruption in public administration**

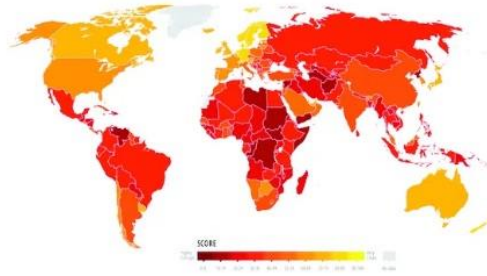
As the release of Transparency International 2020's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) attested, [no country is immune from corruption](#). The 2020 CPI, which placed Australia in 11th place with a score of 77 points on a 100-point scale, reflected Australia's decline since its 2012 peak score of 85 points, a decline, [Professor Adam Graycar](#) described as significant because "[trust in our institutions is fundamental to our functioning as a society](#)". In this blog we looked at new research that investigated malfeasance in public administration, and also offered an overview of the Victorian Public Sector Commission's guide on preventing corruption. This blog also linked to IBAC's corruption prevention tools.

<http://www.courtheath.com.au/spotlight-on-how-to-help-prevent-corruption-and-misconduct/>



CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2020

The perceived levels of public sector corruption in 180 countries/territories around the world.



#cpi2020
www.transparency.org/cpi

- **No country is immune from corruption (part one and part two)**

The 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) showed little progress had been made tackling corruption for almost a decade. In fact, according to Transparency International, persistent corruption across the globe adversely affects health care systems and contributes to “democratic backsliding amid the COVID-19 pandemic”.

In the first part of this two-part series, we offered an overview of the CPI, and the launch of its 2020 Index in Australia that highlighted the varying government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. In part two we focussed on the CPI report’s assessment of Australia and the Asia Pacific region, and we also asked: Is it time to move forward on a National Integrity Commission in Australia?

<http://www.courtheath.com.au/no-country-is-immune-from-corruption-part-one>

<http://www.courtheath.com.au/no-country-is-immune-from-corruption-part-two>

(Image: ©Transparency International)



- **VPS Corruption Prevention & COVID recovery**

To mark International Anti-Corruption Day 2020, we discussed the theme *RECOVER WITH INTEGRITY: Corruption mitigation and the Covid-19 recovery*, and offered a brief overview of the State Government’s resource, *Building public sector integrity during times of crisis or emergency*, which is aimed at assisting the public sector review and strengthen integrity responses and build capacity to prevent corrupt conduct.

<http://www.courtheath.com.au/vps-corruption-prevention-covid-recovery>

(Image: #UnitedAgainstCorruption)



5. DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth

Valuing diversity, CourtHeath supports opportunities for full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with a disability.

SDG12 Ensure responsible consumption and production

Supplier diversity enhances resilient sustainable and adaptive supply chains. CourtHeath's work in government procurement aims to increase awareness about ethical procurement and sourcing responsibly, considering the entire supply chain.

SDG 16 peace, justice and strong institutions

CourtHeath contributes to building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions working with public sector clients in procurement, seeking to promote accountability and to reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

SDG 17 Partnership for the goals

On a daily basis, CourtHeath works to encourage and promote effective public-private partnerships, ultimately fostering sustainable development. Our work to promote ethical supply chains is central to government's public-private partnerships.