

Invitation to Participate in Workshop

Employee Share Ownership in SMEs: Objectives, Current Practice and Regulatory Reform

The Employee Share Ownership Project at Melbourne Law School invites you to participate in a one-day workshop on the regulation of employee share ownership in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

SMEs in Australia are much less likely to have broad-based employee share ownership plans than their larger, listed counterparts. The low incidence of employee share ownership in the SME sector is attributable in part to the current regulatory regime in corporate and taxation law. The current 'one-size fits all' approach is ill-suited to serving the diverse objectives for which SMEs may seek to implement employee share ownership and, in many cases, operates to effectively deny SMEs equal access to employee share ownership plans.

This workshop will discuss the diversity of objectives for which SME owners and managers may seek to implement employee share ownership plans (ESOPs); and how the current regulatory regime in corporate and taxation law structures and constrains the use of ESOPs in this sector. We will consider the case for introducing regulatory reforms to remove identified constraints and discuss practical proposals for reform.

A draft program will be circulated in late February. Attendance at this workshop is by invitation only so an early indication of your ability to attend would be greatly appreciated.

Date: Wednesday 2 April 2008

Time: 9.30am to 5pm

Venue: Boardroom (Rm 1002), Level 10, Melbourne Law School, The University of Melbourne, 185 Pelham St, Parkville VIC 3013.

RSVP: By 8th February 2008 to Ingrid Landau. Tel. (03) 8344 1089
Email. imlandau@unimelb.edu.au

A light lunch will be served.



Tax Group

About the Employee Share Ownership Project

The Employee Share Ownership Project is a joint initiative of the Centre for Corporate Law and Securities Regulation, the Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law and The Tax Group. It is funded by an Australian Research Council Discovery Project Grant.

The project subjects the existing regulatory regime for employee share ownership plans in Australia – in tax, corporate and labour law – to technical and empirical scrutiny. It analyses how current legal regulation structures and constrains the use of ESOPs in Australian enterprises. It examines the current incidence and forms of ESOPs in Australia, the diversity of objectives that such schemes serve, the extent to which current corporate, tax and labour law inhibit ESOPs, and the case for reform of the regulatory framework.

For more information on the project, please visit the following website:

<http://cclsr.law.unimelb.edu.au/go/centre-activities/research/employee-share-ownership-plans-current-practice-and-regulatory-reform/index.cfm>.