

**EMPLOYEE SHARE OWNERSHIP IN SMES: OBJECTIVES, CURRENT
PRACTICE & REGULATORY REFORM**

WORKSHOP, MELBOURNE LAW SCHOOL, 2 APRIL 2008

PROGRAM

Time	Topic	Issues	Discussants
9.30-9.45	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of workshop • Defining an SME • The SME landscape in Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann O'Connell/ Ian Ramsay • Andrew Firestone
9.45 – 11	Objectives and current practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the public policy objectives/ rationales for which employee share ownership is currently promoted? • How, if at all, are these rationales relevant to SMEs? • Are there other rationales for employee share ownership in SMEs that may warrant regulatory incentives? • What do we know about employee share ownership in SMEs in practice? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ingrid Landau • Anthony Graham • Gary Scarrabelotti • Gary Fitton
11 – 11.15	BREAK		
11.15 – 12.30	Evaluating the regulatory regime: issues in tax and corporate law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key regulatory obstacles to employee share ownership in SMEs? • Are these obstacles justifiable on public policy grounds? If so, how? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann O'Connell • Nick Brash • Andrew Clements
12.30- 1.30	LUNCH		
1.30 – 2.45	Developing criteria for a better legal framework in this area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What should be the rationales/ objectives for concessional tax treatment of employee share ownership? • Do the overlapping areas of regulation in this area provide a rational, coherent and sufficiently flexible legal framework? • How do other countries regulate employee share ownership in SMEs? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann O'Connell • Kerry Brewster • Ingrid Landau
2.45-3.00	BREAK		
3.00 – 4.15	Identifying and assessing proposals for regulatory reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent should there be a 'one-size-fits all' approach to the regulation of employee share ownership in Australia? • Are there other ways of facilitating employee share ownership in the SME sector? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Purdon
4.15 – 4.30	Closing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann O'Connell