



Round Table Discussion: Should Institutional Investors Use their Considerable Market Power to Influence the Human Resource Practices of Companies?

Professor Ian Ramsay and Shelley Marshall will present the findings from detailed case-studies of 13 major Australian institutional investors conducted by the Corporate Governance and Workplace Partnerships Project at the University of Melbourne. This study found that many funds are beginning to take into account the human resource practices of companies when they make investment choices, or are engaging with companies to influence their labour management. However, they have generally not realised the potential to do so in a systematic and effective manner.

The Round Table Discussion will be introduced by Michael O'Sullivan, President, Australian Council of Superannuation Investors. Opinions and reactions to the findings will then be invited from participants in the round table including representatives from a number of institutional investors, the Australian Industry Group, the Australian Council of Trade Unions, the media, ISS Proxy Australia, Monash Sustainability Enterprises, The Brotherhood of St Lawrence, lawyers representing superannuation firms and others.

You are invited to contribute to the discussion. What do you think? Should institutional investors be using their considerable financial clout to influence the human resource practices of investee companies in the same way as they are currently engaging with companies over corporate governance issues? Is there sufficient information available regarding the 'social practices' of companies for them to legitimately raise concerns?

WHEN: Thursday 31 May 2007

TIME: 12.45pm for a light lunch.
1pm to start, concludes at 2pm

LOCATION: Rm 920, Level 9
Melbourne Law School
University of Melbourne
185 Pelham Street, Carlton
A location map can be found at:
<http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/LawSchoolStreetPlan.jpg>

RSVP (essential): Josephine Peters
This is a free event Tel : 8344 5281,
Email : j.peters@unimelb.edu.au
Please RSVP to the above email address by
28 May 2007.

Prof Ian Ramsay is the Harold Ford Professor of Commercial Law in the Faculty of Law at The University of Melbourne where he is Director of the Centre for Corporate Law and Securities Regulation. He has practised law with firms in New York and Sydney. He is a member of the Takeovers Panel (which is the main forum for resolving takeover disputes); member of the Corporations and Markets Advisory Committee (which is the Federal Government's main corporate law reform advisory body); member of the Federal Government's Companies Auditors and Liquidators Disciplinary Board and member of the National Law Committee of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Corporations Law Committee of the Law Council of Australia. Ian has published extensively on corporate law and corporate governance issues both internationally and in Australia. He is the co-author of the main corporate law treatise in Australia, *Ford's Principles of Corporations Law* and a member of many editorial boards. He is the co-author of books on corporate law published in New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia.

Shelley Marshall is Research Fellow on the Corporate Governance and Workplace Partnerships Project in the University of Melbourne's Centre for Corporate Law and Securities Regulation and Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law for the past three years. She has published widely in the area of corporate governance and accountability both internationally and in Australia.

This seminar is co-hosted by the Australian Council for Superannuation Investors and the Corporate Governance and Workplace Partnerships project. The seminar series are run by the Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law, together with the Centre for Corporate Law and Securities Regulation of the University of Melbourne Law School as a component of a major ARC funded research project which is examining the interaction between several key factors in the creation and sustainability of 'Partnerships at Work'.