



NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT



ESG issues for business: implications of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

webinar presented by The Australian National Contact Point, Norton Rose Fulbright and The University of Western Australia
23 March 2022, 1300-1400 (AWST), Online

The [OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises](#) provide an international standard for responsible business conduct. The Guidelines cover many areas including Human Rights, Employment and Industrial Relations, Environment, Competition, and Taxation. For multinational enterprises operating in, or from, each country which 'adheres' to the OECD Guidelines (including Australia), compliance with the Guidelines is encouraged by the National Contact Point of that adhering country. Individuals or organisations can submit complaints to the National Contact Point alleging a company has acted inconsistently with the Guidelines. If accepted by the National Contact Point, these complaints can move to 'good offices' (typically, mediation facilitated by an Independent Examiner).

Hear from three experts in this area, about the implications of the Guidelines for business in Australia. Following their presentations, there will then be a broader panel discussion, and Q & A from the audience.

Chair: Chris Owen (Partner, Norton Rose Fulbright) is a litigation lawyer based in Perth and leads the firm's national pro bono program in Australia. Chris previously worked in London as a partner in the litigation team of an international law firm where he led the ESG (environment, social and governance) disputes group and co-chaired the firm's international pro bono practice.

Speakers:

John Southalan (Independent Examiner, Australian National Contact Point) is responsible for managing complaints (specific instances) brought to the AusNCP, including communication and conciliation with parties, decision making and statements on findings.

Jo Feldman (Special Counsel, Norton Rose Fulbright) is an arbitration and litigation lawyer; with over 17 years' experience working with government and the private sector. She has been Australia's representative to the United Nations in New York on human rights matters, and to the World Trade Organization in Geneva.

Dr Fiona McGaughey (Senior Lecturer at the Law School of the University of Western Australia), whose work and research includes international human rights law and modern slavery. Fiona is currently involved in a research project on 'Improving the Regulation of Modern Slavery and Access to Remedy. Learning from Experience'.

CPD points: 0.5 in Competency 1 (Practice Management) and 0.5 in Competency 3 (Ethics & Professional Responsibility)

Attendance is free (the event will be hosted on Microsoft Teams) but registration is compulsory. Please email joy.gordon@nortonrosefulbright.com to register for attendance.