

14 November 2016

Public Data Branch  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
1 National Circuit  
Barton ACT 2600

Email: [ogp@pmc.gov.au](mailto:ogp@pmc.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Australia's First Open Government Action Plan 2016-18**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission regarding Australia's First Open Government Action Plan 2016-18.

#### **Who we are**

Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (Chartered Accountants ANZ) is a professional body comprised of over 120,000 diverse, talented and financially astute members who utilise their skills every day to make a difference for businesses the world over.

Members are known for their professional integrity, principled judgment, financial discipline and a forward-looking approach to business which contributes to the prosperity of our nations.

We focus on the education and lifelong learning of our members, and engage in advocacy and thought leadership in areas of public interest that impact the economy and domestic and international markets.

We are a member of the International Federation of Accountants, and are connected globally through the 800,000-strong Global Accounting Alliance and Chartered Accountants Worldwide which brings together leading Institutes in Australia, England and Wales, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland and South Africa to support and promote over 320,000 Chartered Accountants in more than 180 countries.

We also have a strategic alliance with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. The alliance represents 788,000 current and next generation accounting professionals across 181 countries and is one of the largest accounting alliances in the world providing the full range of accounting qualifications to students and business.

#### **Substantial experience and interest in open government**

Chartered Accountants ANZ has been, and is, actively involved in policy advocacy across a broad range of matters. Our advocacy covers key issues relevant to business and the accounting profession including several of the areas outlined in the proposed National Action Plan.

For example, our organisation has:

- Discussed with Treasury, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and some politicians the potential design and implementation of tax whistle blower legislation.
- Discussed with Treasury the Government's G20 commitment to implement beneficial ownership transparency.
- Corresponded and had meetings with the ATO about the use, availability and presentation of ATO statistics.
- Actively participated in a number of ATO committees that involve the receipt and delivery of on-line (digital) tax services. These committees have considered, or are considering, the exchange of information between
- Researched, including international comparisons, the ability of an individual to review information held about them.
- Made numerous submissions regarding public consultation – for example the Tax Design Review Panel, Tax White paper.
- Proposed policy recommendations to the Federal Government in the areas of innovation, cyber security and anti-corruption.

### **Active involvement requested**

Chartered Accountants ANZ is strongly supportive of the Open Government National Action Plan.

Our organisation would like to be part of the proposed permanent Open Government Multiple Stakeholder forum as it aligns with our commitment to serve the public interest and our areas of expertise/interest. We note that the current interim working group does not contain industry and business groups.

We would also like to offer our assistance in relation to:

- The formulation of exposure drafts in relation to whistle-blower protections (transparency and accountability in business);
- Continuing to develop a whole of government digital transformation roadmap and measures for performance of government services (open data and digital transformation)
- Working with government in the development of a framework to improve public participation in government decision making for better policy development and service delivery (public participation and engagement).
- Working with government to strengthen Australia's anti-corruption and bribery regime (integrity in the public sector).

I would be happy to discuss any aspects of our submission with you. I can be contacted on (02) 9290 5609 or by email at [michael.croker@charteredaccountantsanz.com](mailto:michael.croker@charteredaccountantsanz.com).

Yours faithfully,



**Michael Croker**  
**Tax Leader Australia**  
**Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand**