



## **Mark Zirnsak, Director, Social Justice Unit, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, Uniting Church in Australia – Nomination for Open Government Forum**

I have been the Director of the Social Justice Unit of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, Uniting Church in Australia for 12 years. In that position I have been part of advocacy for transparency, accountability and open government.

We are members of Transparency International Australia and Publish What You Pay Australia. I act as the secretariat for the Tax Justice Network Australia (which has 37 organisational members) and the JustWork Alliance (which has eight organisational members) and are an active member of the A24 civil society network (which is a very broad civil society network).

I was a civil society member of the OGP Interim Working Group.

I have regularly been part of campaigns that seek more transparent and open government. These campaigns have called for:

- More public transparency on stolen assets recovered that have been shifted to Australia from overseas (to a level consistent with the US Department of Justice);
- Greater publication of corporate tax data (which resulted in legislation requiring the ATO to publish tax data of most businesses in Australia with revenue over \$100 million a year);
- Public access to customs data (as is the case in places like the US and India);
- Introduction of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in Australia (which the Government has now committed to do);
- Disclosure of the beneficial ownership of businesses registered in Australia (which is the subject of a public consultation by Treasury); and
- Campaigns for the improvement in the delivery of government services in areas such as disability, mental health, employment services and family violence.

I have been on a number of government working groups that have required collaboration towards developing legislation, regulation and government plans. These have included:

- The working group for developing the regulations for the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act* under the Department of Agriculture;
- The Supply Chain Working Group for the Attorney General's National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery;
- The Ministerial Expert Advisory Group on Gambling Reform under the Gillard Government;
- The Victorian Responsible Gambling Ministerial Advisory Council; and
- The Victorian Government advisory group for the *Child Employment Act*.