

Submission to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit – David Milo

I am writing this submission to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit in response to the publication by the Committee of a statement from Anthony Daly. The assertions contained in Daly's statement are refuted in their entirety. His claim to have been employed or had any role in Synergy360 is untrue.

Synergy360 was founded by Kham Xaysavanh and I in early 2017 to leverage the experience I had gained as a partner with Deloitte and subsequently as the government sector consulting lead at Aurecon. Synergy360, which in 2021 had been a finalist for Australian Small Business of the Year, was established to deliver the full spectrum of consulting and advisory services, primarily to large commercial IT businesses operating in the government sector. The Company was highly regarded in the market and had a hard-earned reputation for providing subject matter expertise in bid writing and service delivery. Our staff included solution architects, master schedulers, external assurance specialists, as well as highly qualified project and programme managers. Many of our people had significant experience with other professional services firms and a number had a background in Defence. Most, if not all, had worked with members of the team on previous programmes of work with other employers.

From its inception, Synergy360 aimed to deliver the very highest quality advisory and delivery services to its clients at a qualitative and price point which our larger competitors could not match. As stated, our business was overwhelmingly the provision of delivery services to large, often global, commercial IT vendors, not the Commonwealth Government. In fact, our interaction with Government Representatives at all levels was minimal and was, like all other professional services firms, exempted from the requirement to register as a Lobbyist under Section 5.3.f of the *Lobbying Code of Conduct* in that we 'made occasional representations to Government on behalf of others in a way that is incidental to the provision to them of their professional or other services'. There was nothing in our operations that would have differentiated Synergy360 from any of the other topflight Australian owned boutique consultancy shops.