



PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON CORPORATIONS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Ethics and Professional Accountability: Structural Challenges in the Audit, Assurance and Consultancy Industry

Information for submitters

On 22 June 2023, the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services (the committee) commenced an inquiry into recent allegations of and responses to misconduct in the Australian operations of the major accounting, audit, and consultancy firms (including but not exclusive to the ‘Big Four’).

Terms of reference for the inquiry are available at https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Corporations_and_Financial_Services/ConsultancyFirms.

Closing date for submissions: 31 August 2023

- The closing date ensures the committee has time to consider submissions.
- The committee is not always able to consider or accept late submissions.

How to prepare a personal submission

In preparing your submission, the following guidance may be helpful:

- Address the submission to the committee and cover some or all of the terms of reference.
- Try to be concise, generally no more than four to five pages.
- Outline the issues and how they can be addressed, without necessarily naming people. Note that where submissions contain potential adverse reflections on individuals or organisations, the committee may be required to provide them with an opportunity to respond.
- The committee would not typically seek, and may not accept, personal or business documents or correspondence.

For further information see https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/How_to_make_a_submission.

Online submission: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/OnlineSubmission.

Please clarify whether you are requesting that your submission be:

- a **public submission** published **with your name on the internet**; or
- a **name-withheld submission** published **without your name on the internet**; or
- a **confidential submission**, kept confidential by the committee. Please note that while committees are respectful of such requests, they do have the power to refuse to accept or to publish submissions following consultation with the submitter.

The committee's role

- The committee's powers allow it to report to Parliament with recommendations for changes to legislation, regulation and government policy.
- While the committee welcomes all submissions and may consider individual accounts as part of its inquiry and reporting function, it does not investigate or seek to resolve individual matters.

Parliamentary privilege

Submissions to the inquiry become committee documents upon receipt and are made public only after a decision by the committee. You should not release your submission to anyone until the committee advises you if it has been accepted and published. Submissions are protected by parliamentary privilege if they are accepted by the committee, their unauthorised release before this is not.