



2021 Annual Report & Business Review



ACCI Annual Report and Business Review 2021
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President's Message

Last year, I said that ACCI's advocacy, leadership and support was needed more than ever before. With the challenges brought on by lockdowns and restrictions continuing well into 2021, this still rings true 12 months later.

Confronting the ongoing disruptions posed by a once-in-a-century pandemic, ACCI has stayed attuned to the needs of its members, and offering support to the businesses they represent.

With international and domestic borders slammed shut, ACCI has established itself as an authority on the reopening of the Australian economy. Indeed, the National Cabinet Plan to transition from pre-vaccination settings to our international reopening was heavily informed by ACCI's Reopening Australia guidelines.

The supply chain constraints facing businesses have been a further focal point for ACCI's advocacy efforts. Our *Fifth National Trade Survey* launched by the Minister for Tourism and Trade, the Hon Dan Tehan MP, alongside 150 business leaders, examined the upheaval businesses are facing and the opportunities for reform.

In October, ACCI launched its Better Australia strategy, a blueprint to guide policymakers towards a stronger and smarter future. The paper was launched at the Business Leaders' Summit by Federal Treasurer, the Honourable Josh Frydenberg MP, and Shadow Treasurer Dr Jim Chalmers MP and demonstrates ACCI's commitment to long-term policy reform to rekindle Australia's economic growth and deliver high living standards for future generations.

We were pleased to welcome Andrew McKellar as the chamber's new chief executive. Andrew brings a wealth of experience in several senior executive roles, including a six-year tenure as the Secretary-General for Mobility at the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile based in Paris. Andrew has already hit the ground running and has a bold vision to grow ACCI's advocacy and policy output.

James Pearson finished his tenure as chief executive in February 2021. I would like to extend my genuine gratitude to James for his five years of service to ACCI. James' leadership of the chamber's secretariat has expanded ACCI's network and strengthened our ability to advocate for the interests of business.

I would also like to thank the Director of Economics, Employment and Skills, Jenny Lambert, who acted as interim CEO for several months following James' departure. Jenny's leadership was outstanding during what was an immensely challenging period for businesses right across the country.

In closing, my time as President of ACCI is coming to end. I'd like to thank my board colleagues, the leadership team and the secretariat for their dedication and tireless efforts in what has certainly been a challenging, yet also extraordinarily rewarding year. With businesses across the country relying on the support and advocacy of the Chamber more than ever before, I congratulate our team for achieving such advantageous results for the business community.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I'd like to thank all our members. Businesses are the backbone of our community, and we hope you are proud of our efforts to champion your interests. Through challenging times, our commitment to our members is more important than ever and we look forward to our continued partnership as we begin on the road to recovery. Together, we amplify the voice of business.



Ray Sputore
President

CEO's Message

It has been another challenging year for Australian business and for the broader community, dominated by the continuing effort to contain the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

For a short time, earlier in the year, there were green shoots of hope that circumstances may be returning to a more normal environment. ACCI was able to host several in-person events and regular movement around the country was also possible.

Unfortunately, the early signs of optimism were not sustained and as the year has gone on, the contrasting circumstances and approaches across different state and territory jurisdictions has become starkly apparent.

Through challenging circumstances ACCI has sought to maintain active engagement with members. During 2021 we have conducted more than 40 video conferences, briefings and events, providing ACCI members with access to fascinating insights from leading figures in politics, public administration, business, science, journalism and more.

As 2021 draws to a close, we are at last experiencing renewed hope that we are on the way to reopening international and domestic borders. Business has demonstrated its resilience and its readiness to bounce back strongly. After months of effort it is to be hoped that Australia is well positioned to move to the next phase. It's time to get Australia open for business and roaring back to life!

Recently, we have launched Better Australia a new agenda to reinvigorate productivity growth and to strengthen the foundations of a smarter and stronger nation over the coming decades. The strategy articulates five key visions for a smarter, fairer, bigger, sustainable and more secure Australia, out to 2050.

The successful launch of the strategy reflected the patient and dedicated efforts of the ACCI team over more than a year, to craft and refine a narrative that melds a blend of ambition, challenge and optimism for the future. We plan to build on the momentum generated with future events and thought-provoking reports to consolidate a more detailed agenda around the key themes of our strategy.

Looking ahead, 2022 will be a federal election year and we must use the opportunity over coming months to actively engage with the major parties encouraging them to commit tackle urgent priorities. These include the pressing demand for skilled workers and the need to take the first practical steps towards a new generation of economic reform.

A big thank you to all ACCI members for your contribution and support throughout the past year. On a personal note, it has been a privilege to join ACCI to lead the national secretariat and I thank all members of the team for their warm welcome and for their outstanding efforts, strength and professionalism in a most challenging environment. Together, we are committed to support the efforts of the business community to build a better future for Australia.



Andrew McKellar
Chief Executive Officer

Australian Chamber Membership Network

The Australian Chamber is Australia's largest and most representative business network. Our vision is to make Australia the best place in the world to do business — so that Australians have the jobs, living standards and opportunities to which they aspire.

Our purpose is to mobilise the ideas, influence and passion of people in business to achieve policy outcomes in the national interest. Our membership includes all state and territory chambers of commerce and over 80 industry associations. Together we represent hundreds of thousands of businesses in every state and territory and across all industries. Ranging from small and medium enterprises to the largest companies, our network employs millions of people. We focus on issues that impact on business, including economic reform, industry policy, trade and investment, workplace relations, work health and safety, and employment, migration, education and training. We give Australian businesses a platform to advocate for free trade and open markets and influence policy decisions affecting business in national and global forums.



Chamber Members

The combined power and influence of the peak business group in every Australian state and territory — the chamber network — gives ACCI unrivalled geographic representation and reach. We aim to complement at the national level the work they do in their own jurisdictions.



Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia



Canberra Business Chamber



Business SA



Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce



Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Chamber of Commerce Queensland



Business NSW



Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Industry Association Members

Industry associations bring sectoral horsepower and expertise at national, state and territory level, through their own networks, to boost our national policy and advocacy. Together with our chamber members, they represent the breadth and depth of the Australian economy and the businesses that drive it.










 <p>Accommodation Association of Australia</p>	 <p>ACCORD Australasia Limited</p>	 <p>Air Conditioning and Mechanical Contractors' Association</p>	 <p>Animal Medicines Australia</p>	 <p>APRA AMCOS</p>
 <p>Association of Independent Schools of NSW</p>	 <p>Aust Arab Chamber of Commerce & Industry</p>	 <p>Australasian Society of Association Executives</p>	 <p>Australasian Association of Convenience Stores</p>	 <p>Australian Automotive Dealer Association</p>
 <p>Australian Beverages Council Limited</p>	 <p>Australian Cabinet and Furniture Association (ACFA)</p>	 <p>Australian Chiropractors Association</p>	 <p>Australian Dental Association Inc</p>	 <p>Australian Dental Industry Association</p>
 <p>Australian Federation of Employers and Industries</p>	 <p>Australian Federation of Travel Agents</p>	 <p>Australian Finance Industry Association</p>	 <p>Australian Gift & Homewares Association</p>	 <p>Australian Hotels Association</p>
 <p>Australian Institute of Credit Management</p>	 <p>Australian Made Campaign Ltd</p>	 <p>Australian Mines & Metals Association</p>	 <p>Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association</p>	 <p>Australian Recording Industry Association Ltd</p>
 <p>Australian Tyre Industry Council</p>	 <p>Australian Regional Tourism Ltd</p>	 <p>Australian Retailers Association</p>	 <p>Australian Restructuring Insolvency & Turnaround Association</p>	 <p>Australian Roofing Tile Association</p>
 <p>Australian Steel Institute</p>	 <p>Australian Tourism Export Council</p>	 <p>Australian Trucking Association</p>	 <p>Australian Veterinary Association</p>	 <p>Boating Industry Association</p>
 <p>Bus Industry Confederation</p>	 <p>Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals</p>	 <p>Business Events Council of Australia</p>	 <p>Caravan Industry Association of Australia</p>	 <p>Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia</p>

 <p>Chemistry Australia Ltd</p>	 <p>Clubs NSW</p>	 <p>Clubs Australia</p>	 <p>Concrete Masonry Association of Australia</p>	 <p>Consult Australia</p>
 <p>Consulting Surveyors National</p>	 <p>Council of Australian Tour Operators</p>	 <p>Consumer Healthcare Products Australia</p>	 <p>CPA Australia</p>	 <p>Cruise Lines International Association</p>
 <p>Customer Owned Banking Association Limited</p>	 <p>Direct Selling Association of Australia Inc</p>	 <p>Exhibition & Event Association of Australasia</p>	 <p>Fitness Australia Ltd</p>	 <p>Gaming Technologies Association</p>
 <p>Governance Institute of Australia</p>	 <p>Housing Industry Association</p>	 <p>International Education Association of Australia</p>	 <p>Independent Higher Education Australia (IHEA)</p>	 <p>Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia</p>
 <p>Institute of Civil Infrastructure</p>	 <p>International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association of Australia Limited (IFCBAA)</p>	 <p>Large Format Retail Association Ltd</p>	 <p>Live Performance Australia</p>	 <p>Master Builders Australia Limited</p>
 <p>Master Plumbers' and Mechanical Services</p>	 <p>Medical Technology Association of Australia</p>	 <p>Medicines Australia</p>	 <p>National Automotive Leasing and Salary Packaging Association</p>	 <p>National Electrical & Communication Association</p>
 <p>National Employment Services Association</p>	 <p>National Fire Industry Association</p>	 <p>National Retail Association Limited</p>	 <p>The National Roads and Motorists Association</p>	 <p>NSW Taxi Council</p>
 <p>Outdoor Media Association</p>	 <p>Pharmacy Guild of Australia</p>	 <p>Print and Visual Communications Association of Australia</p>	 <p>Recruitment, Consulting and Staffing Association Australia & New Zealand</p>	 <p>Restaurant & Catering Australia</p>
 <p>Screen Producers Australia</p>	 <p>The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia</p>	 <p>Think Brick Australia</p>	 <p>Tourism Accommodation Australia (A division of AHA)</p>	
 <p>Tourism Training Australia</p>	 <p>Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce</p>			

Business Leaders Council Members

The Australian Chamber Business Leaders Council provides a platform for individual businesses to directly engage with Australian Chamber activities by facilitating access and networking between the corporate sector and federal legislators and policy makers.

A busy calendar of events in major cities promotes ACCI's chamber and industry association members, an exchange of ideas among participants and creates invaluable networks among members and political leaders. Membership of the Australian Chamber Business Leaders Council includes:

 A2B Australia Limited	 AbbVie Australia New Zealand	 Abbott Laboratories	 Academies Australasia Group Limited	 Airbnb Australia Pty Ltd
 Allianz Australia Limited	 Allied Express Transport Pty Ltd	 Amazon.com.au	 American Express	 Angus Knight Group
 Assured People Services	 atWork Australia	 Australia's Academic and Research Network	 Axicom Pty Ltd	 Bank of China
 British American Tobacco Australasia Ltd	 Brown & Chase	 Campbell Page Limited	 Chubb	 CIMIC Group Limited
 Citrus Group	 City Tattersalls Club	 Commonwealth Bank of Australia	 Collective Wellness Group	 Construction Specialties
 CreditorWatch	 Crown Resorts	 DXC Technology	 Dymocks Franchise Systems (NSW) Pty Ltd	 eBay Australia & New Zealand Pty Ltd
 Eftpos Australia	 Employers Mutual Management Pty Ltd	 Engage Comply Pay	 Google Australia and New Zealand Pty Ltd	 Gow-Gates Insurance Brokers
 Hearing Australia	 Home Consortium Limited	 Imperial Tobacco Australia Limited	 Insurance Australia Group (IAG)	 Intralot Australia Pty Ltd

 IQ Group Global	 JCDECAUX Australia & New Zealand	 JLL	 Kingsway Australia Pty Ltd	 KnowledgeCore
 Life Without Barriers	 Mastercard	 National Heart Foundation	 NBN Co	 Netlinkz Limited
 OpenLearning Australia	 Ola	 Ord Minnett	 Ozland Security Services	 Philip Morris Limited
 Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd	 Paintback Ltd	 PremierNational	 Primary Communication Partners Pty Ltd	 Procurement Australia
 Road Freight	 Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC)	 Red Energy	 Resmed Ltd	 Samsung Electronics Australia Pty Ltd
 Sanofi	 ScotPac Business Finance	 Serco	 Southern Cross Group	 SPAR Australia Limited
 Star Entertainment Group	 Suncorp	 Swisse Wellness	 Sydney Flying Club trading as Sydney Flight College	 Telstra
 The Fred Hollows Foundation	 TikTok	 TPG Telecom	 Tyre Stewardship Australia	 Uber
 Vertex Pharmaceuticals	 Verto Limited	 Visa AP (Australia) Pty Ltd	 Woolworths Group Ltd	 Work Happy
 QBE Insurance Group Limited	 3M Australia	 365 Workplace		

National Secretariat

The Australian Chamber's national secretariat delivers the Chamber's activities on behalf of Members. Team members are based in Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney and Perth.

CEO Office



Andrew McKellar
Chief Executive Officer

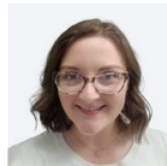


Tracy Fairhall
Executive Assistant to the
CEO and Office Manager

Trade and International



Bryan Clark
Director – ICC Australia



Sara Gillespie
Policy Officer

Workplace Relations



Scott Barklamb
Director – Industrial Relations



Tamsin Lawrence
Deputy Director –
Workplace Relations

Work Health & Safety and Health



Jennifer Low
Director – Work Health
& Safety and Health Policy



Tanya Roy
Policy Officer

Economics, Employment & Skills; Tourism



Jenny Lambert
Director – Economics,
Employment & Skills



Ingrid Fraser
Associate Director –
Workforce Policy & Tourism

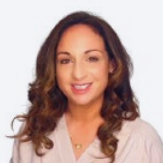


Peter Grist
Principle Economist – Associate
Director Industry Policy

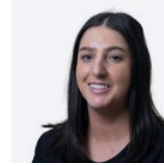


Natalie Heazlewood
Senior Policy Advisor –
Skills, Small Business & Innovation

Membership, Marketing and Events



Anthea Williams
Director - Strategic Partnerships
& Stakeholder Engagement



Alexa Gioffre
Communications and
Events Coordinator



Tracy Rieger
Senior Manager – Membership,
Marketing & Events



Peter Gregory
Executive Support

Corporate



Stephen Schmidt
Company Secretary –
Director of Corporate Services



Kelly Wu
Finance Officer



Kathryn Lee
Financial Controller



Michelle Straight
Executive Support Officer

Media and Campaigns



Jack Quail
Media Officer

Board Members



Ray Sputore

President



Nola Watson

Deputy President



Dr. Jeremy Johnson AM

Immediate Past President



Andrew McKellar

Chief Executive Officer



Karyn Sobels

President, Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Paul Guerra

Chief Executive, Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Lyall Gorman

President, Business NSW



Daniel Hunter

Chief Executive Officer,
Business NSW



Nikki Govan

External Business Director



Nicolle Jenkins

President, Chamber of Commerce
and Industry of Western Australia



Christopher Rodwell

Chief Executive Officer, Chamber
of Commerce and Industry of
Western Australia



Steve Knott AM

Chief Executive, Australian
Resources and Energy Group AMMA



Tony Schiffmann

President, Chamber of Commerce
& Industry Queensland

Financial Snapshot

Strategic investment into improved systems and services

In 2020/21 the Australian Chamber continued its investment in technology to improve communication with members and advocacy to stakeholders. The continuation of the pandemic rerouted resources to the support of members and financial sustainability.

Prudent financial stewardship through the pandemic

The Australian Chamber enjoyed a surplus in 2020/21. Member retention was better than expected and reflects, in large measure, the importance placed by members on support provided by the Australian Chamber through the pandemic, the impact of the pandemic on activities resulting in savings, and savings from the containment of operational expenditure. The secretariat is managing finances to ensure positive member engagement and continued financial sustainability.

Strategic revenue growth

Revenue in 2020/21 grew \$214,000 (2019/20 it was \$259,000) from increased Industry Association and Business Leaders' Council member recruitment.

	2020/21	2019/20
Revenue & Expenditure		
Total revenue & other income	\$'000 6,943	\$'000 6,958
Total expenditure	6,250	6,805
Operating surplus/(deficit)	693	153
Total comprehensive income	1,010	(86)
Assets & Liabilities		
Total assets	9,294	8,477
Total liabilities	1,586	2,005
Net assets	7,708	6,472

Strategic Plan 2020-2023

Our vision

To make Australia the best place in the world to do business — so that Australians have the jobs, living standards and opportunities to which they aspire.

Our purpose

Mobilise the ideas, influence and passion of people in business to achieve policy outcomes in the national interest.

Our values

Unity of purpose, commitment to excellence, independence in advocacy, respect for our stakeholders and integrity in all that we do for our members.

The Company's strategic priorities and initiatives that underpin them:

- to be the most influential voice of business:
 - use our influence to achieve advocacy outcomes;
 - leverage the political and news cycles;
 - deliver advocacy campaigns and events in support of policy outcomes;
- to be a business policy powerhouse:
 - provide thought leadership and policy positions in; workplace relations; skills; trade; and economic reform;
 - develop policies on the key priorities established by members;
 - enhance policy collaboration with members and international network;
- to secure long-term financial sustainability:
 - ensure membership model delivers compelling value;
 - revenue base offers sustainability and funds operations;
- enhance efficiency and cost effectiveness of our operations.

Organisational Capability

- governance review; and
- leadership development.

Governance

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (the Australian Chamber) is a member based, not-for-profit company, which is limited by guarantee with a Board of Directors governed by the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) and Memorandum and Articles of Association. Membership comprises State and Territory Chambers of Commerce and Industry and National and State Industry Associations.

General Council

General Council is a council of members that oversees governance and determines policy on current issues, which provides a mandate for advocacy on matters of importance to the business community. It is advised by the Board, policy committees and working parties that meet between Council meetings. Senior office-bearers, executives from the Australian Chamber's member organisations, Australian Chamber Board members, and senior members of staff attend General Council. General Council usually meets three times each year, in Canberra for one meeting and in other State and Territory jurisdictions on a national rotating basis. General Council met virtually by video conferencing for the 2020-2021 financial year. Ray Sputore is Chair of General Council.

Board

The Board of Directors is responsible for corporate governance, performance monitoring, and the strategic direction of the company. The Board is also responsible for ensuring that appropriate management structures are in place and such structures operate efficiently and transparently. Members at the Annual General Meeting elect Office Bearers and note the Eligible Chamber appointed Board members. At the 2020 Annual General Meeting, Ray Sputore from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Western Australia was elected President and Board Chair while Nola Watson, from Business NSW, was elected Deputy President. The Board is supported by a number of Committees including the Board Executive Committee, the Campaigns Committee, and Governance Review Subcommittee. These Committees operate under Charters or Terms-of-Reference approved by the Board.

Board Executive Committee

The Board Executive Committee has been established to assist the Board in discharging its responsibilities by dealing with matters of importance to the Board, which arise between Board meetings. The Committee also monitors strategic risks, advises the Board on corporate governance, oversees financial and investment activity, and reviews the effectiveness of the external audit and internal controls. Ray Sputore is the Chair.

Employment & Skills

In the last year we have had frequent engagement with Ministerial Offices, the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) and other federal agencies on key issues around provision of support for job seekers and apprentices as well as the future of the vocational training system.

From an employment perspective the focus has been on mechanisms to support the most impacted industries. Our policy recommendations for the *Boosting Apprenticeship Commencement (BAC) Wage Subsidy* were accepted by Government, first extending the scheme until end of September 2021 and uncapping it, and then a further extension to March 2022.

The BAC subsidies have reversed a decade long decline in apprenticeship numbers, providing jobs not just for young people, but also adult apprentices who before the subsidy could not compete due to the high adult wage rate.

Moving forward, the securing of long-term funding for vocational education and training remains a top priority for ACCI members, and as a result of our advocacy we have seen some key announcements from the Federal Government which will assist on this front.

Our advocacy saw the Federal Government committing to the establishment of up to 15 Skills Enterprises to take over the role of the current Industry Reference Committees and Skills Service Organisations which are responsible for updates to the vocational training packages. Importantly, it is envisaged that the new Skills Clusters will have a higher-level strategic role in workforce planning that will look at skills needs across all levels of industries and will engage industry on the strategic workforce needs and where the current gaps are.



Boosting Apprenticeship Commencement Wage Subsidy



Lobbying to Government on skills and labour shortages and migration



Long term funding for VET and reforming how industry engage with the system



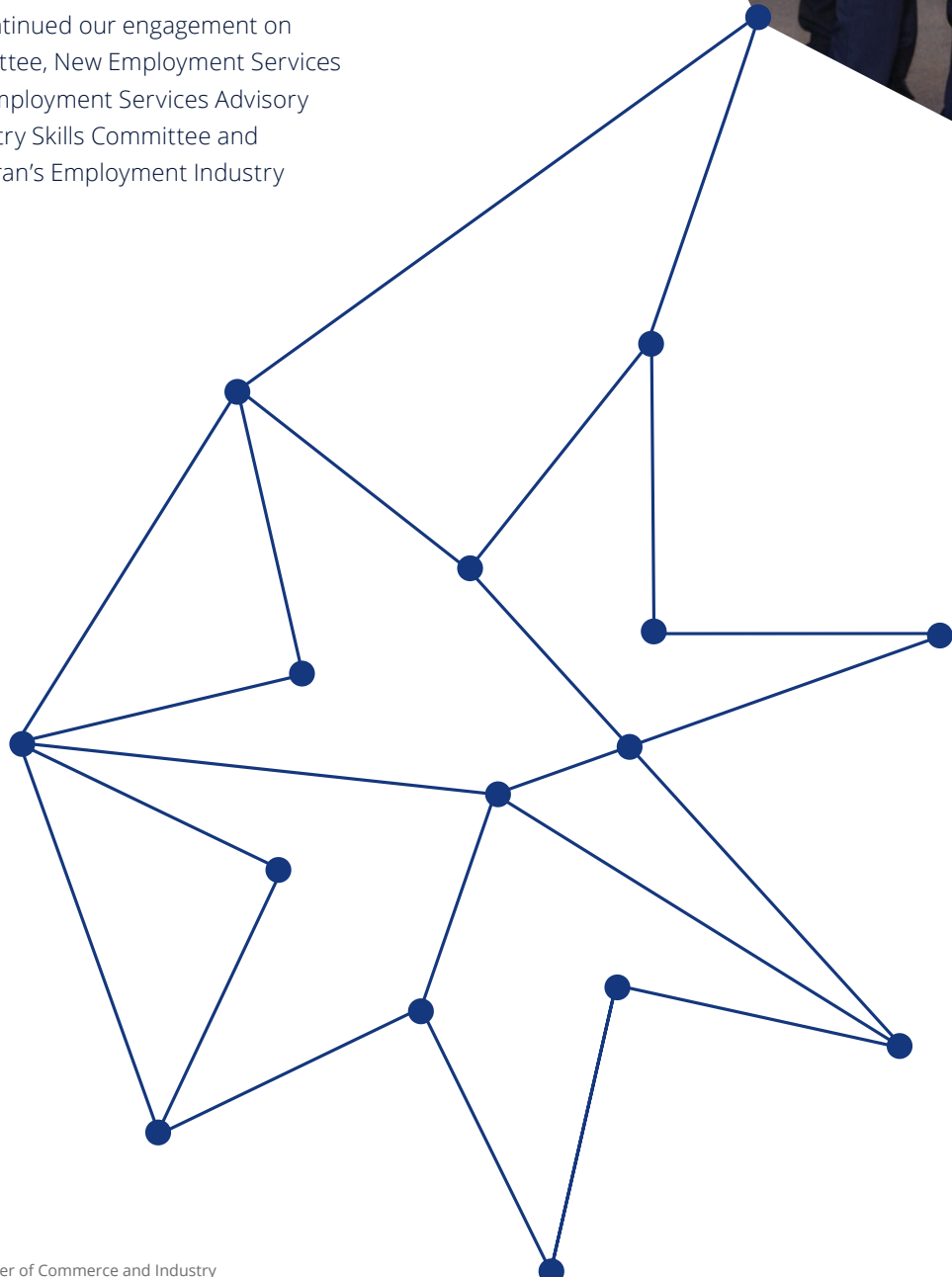
Acting Chief Executive Jenny Lambert discusses the need to reopen Australia's international borders with Laura Jayes on Sky News Australia.

The Employment & Skills Committee met four times in the last year, with two special meetings to focus on the training and assessment qualification and industry engagement with VET.

We have been especially vocal on difficulties employers face around skills and labour shortages, as a result of the almost complete cessation of migration and we made appearances before two parliamentary committees on migration, both skilled and temporary. We continue to work closely with the new Minister for Immigration, the Hon Alex Hawke MP on the critical issues facing migration, including providing the Minister with ACCI's response to the recommendations of the Joint Committee's report into Skilled Migration.

ACCI worked actively with members to successfully advocate for the priority skills list to be substantially expanded from 19 to 41 occupations, enabling more employers to secure exemptions to bring much needed skilled labour into the country.

Throughout the year we continued our engagement on the VET Stakeholder Committee, New Employment Services advisory group, Disability Employment Services Advisory Group, the Australian Industry Skills Committee and as Deputy Chair of the Veteran's Employment Industry Advisory Committee.



Economics, Industry & Sustainability

Throughout the year, the Economics and Industry Policy team continued to be active in representing the interest of members.

During the short break in COVID lockdowns, the Economics and Industry Policy Committee met in Canberra in May. This included a series of roundtable meetings at Parliament House with: The Hon Michael Sukkar MP, Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Housing, Homelessness, Social and Community Housing; Trevor Evans MP, Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management; and, The Hon Stuart Roberts MP, Minister Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business.

Throughout the year, we engaged with key Ministers, the Shadow Ministry and bureaucrats in support of our key policy priorities set out in ACCI's 2021-22 Pre-Budget Submission. In May, we participated in the Budget lock-up and provided a Budget summary and Budget in-depth briefing to members on Budget night.

In July, ACCI formally launched its campaign to raise awareness of the impact of payroll tax on business and seek reform of the payroll tax system, with the release of an Issues Paper and survey. These were prepared in collaboration with state chambers through the Chief Economists Group. The campaign aims to generate discussion on how the system can be improved, with the issues paper a platform for further consultation with government, business and other relevant stakeholders over the coming months on options for reducing the burden of payroll tax on businesses.



Ministers Stuart Robert (centre left) and Michael Sukkar (centre) meet with Karyn Sobels (EIP chair - centre right), Jenny Lambert (ACCI acting CEO) and the Economics and Industry Policy (EIP) Committee at Parliament House in May 2021

We represented members interests on the Productivity Commission's *Supply Chain Sovereignty Forum*, and *Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources' (DISER) freight and logistics roundtable*, also engaging with DISER on the rollout of industry roadmaps and grant funding for the Modern Manufacturing Initiative and consulting with the Attorney General's Department (AG's) on the small business exemption of the Privacy Act.

The EIP team has been very active in representing member's views through direct engagement with the Government and written submissions to Government reviews and inquiries. These include: ACCC on *amalgamation of payment platforms*; *Treasury's Review of the Australian Financial Complaints Authority*; Treasury on increasing the statutory demand threshold; AG's on simplification of bankruptcy arrangements; Senate Economics Reference Committee Inquiry into the consumer credit protection; Treasury inquiry on increasing the statutory demand threshold; Interim response to the Productivity Commission's report on vulnerable supply chains; ACCC review of the proposed amalgamation of BPAY, eftpos and NPPA; DISER review of the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman; Reserve Bank of Australia review of retail payments regulation, House Infrastructure Committee on procurement practices for government-funded infrastructure; and Treasury review of Unfair Contract Terms. The team also provided evidence at a public hearing held by the Senate Select Committee on Economics on the proposed amendments to the *National Consumer Credit Protections Act*.

In September, we bid farewell to ACCI's Chief Economist, Dr Ross Lambie, who departed for a new role as Chief Economist at the Minerals Council of Australia. Daniel Popovski also departed in September for a new role at the Australian Food and Grocery Council. Jenny Lambert extended her role as Director of Economics, Employment and Skills, while Peter Grist stepped up as Principal Economist and Associate Director Industry Policy. In October, we welcomed Natalie Heazlewood as Senior Policy Adviser, Small Business and Innovation.

Trade & International Affairs — ICC Australia

In the first quarter we made several submissions to DFAT and the Joint Standing Committees on Treaties, Trade and Investment Growth on topics including the proof of origin system in the Australia-EU FTA, expansion of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement on Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and the impact of prudential regulation on Australian exporters.

Our authority to issue Certificates of Origin was re-accredited in January following a successful audit by the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) and all issuing Chambers also being full accredited.

Another achievement for ACCI in facilitating partnerships is that of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) with Global Trade Review (GTR). IORA partnered with GTR on the event GTR MENA 2021 and are continuing ongoing collaboration.

We met with DFAT, DISER and DAWE on advancing progress to remove non-tariff barriers facing Australian exporters including establishing a Halal Working Group to address Halal import restrictions on food, cosmetics and textiles at a global level.

Across 2021 we participated in the B20 Trade and Investment Taskforce considering the recommendations to the G20; and spoke at the OECD Forum on Trade and Climate Leadership in an Interconnected World, discussing Australia's position on carbon border adjustments. After almost 12 months of work with the Tourism Committee, the two-way travel bubble between Australia and New Zealand has come to fruition. This is a welcome result and a good boost to our continuing efforts on opening international borders.



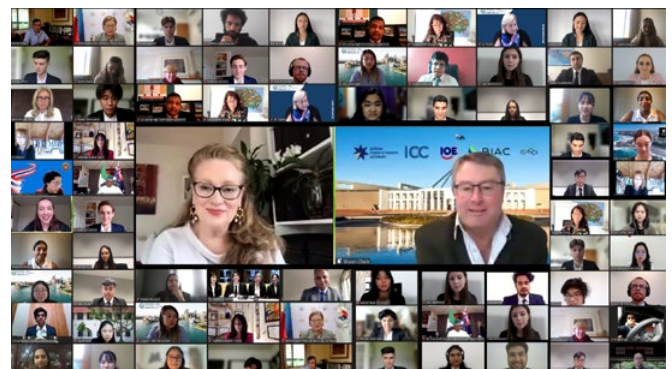
Submissions on Treaties, Trade and Investment Growth



Re-accredited for Certificates of Origin



UN Women and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)



The 5th ADC-ICC Asia Pacific Commercial Mediation Competition was conducted in September with a record number of university participants from across the globe.

ACCI, with members engaged with UN Women and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in April to support the development of a report on Supporting Women Entrepreneurs and Women-Owned Enterprises amid COVID-19, and we continue to support this work.

On June 4, 2021 ACCI launched the 5th International Trade survey with the assistance of Minister for Trade and Tourism, Dan Tehan. The survey identifies the challenges and opportunities Australian businesses face in global markets during the COVID-19 pandemic and has drawn international attention. Director of ICC Australia, Bryan Clark conducted an interview with Bloomberg News to outline some of these challenges.

We have advocated for ACCI positions with negotiators for various free trade agreements. The UK Australia FTA was signed in principle on June 14. Negotiations to finalise text are expected to continue until at least November 2021 and entry into force is expected around mid-2022. Negotiations continue for the Australia-EU FTA however DFAT report that progress is not rapid given a number of contentious issues from both sides. We will continue to be proactive in our advocacy throughout ongoing negotiations.

Throughout the year we have made submissions on the proof of origin system for the Australia-EU FTA, impact of prudential regulation on Australian exporters, expansion of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), and ratification of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP). We presented at the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT) hearing on RCEP, reaffirming our position on its value for Australia in strategically redirecting trade and economic ties towards regional relationships within the Asia-Pacific. Following this, we have assisted DFAT in negotiations over the certificate of origin template in preparation for entry into force.



Partnerships with the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) with Global Trade Review (GTR)



5th Annual ADC-ICC Asia Pacific Commercial Mediation Competition



Project between the Confederation of Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) and Dr Andrew Stoeckel on revitalising world trade

We continue to host interns from ANU who work on projects such as supply chain diversification for Australian exporters, carbon border adjustment measures, and the intergovernmental ledger, halal markets, international organisations and preparing for the next 25 million people.

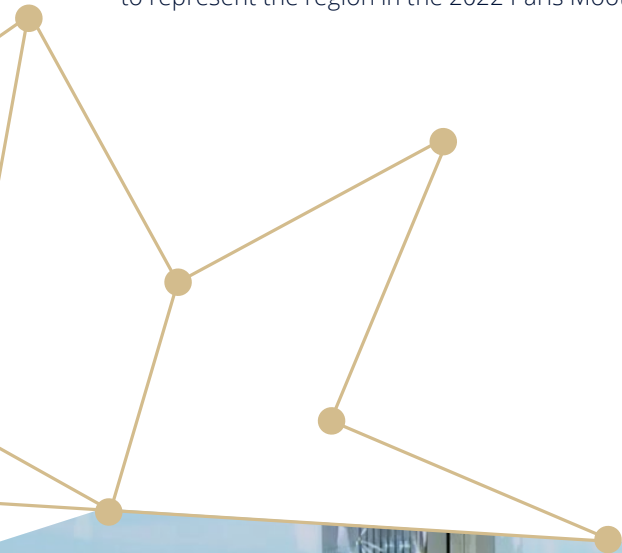
By way of international and industry engagement, we attended a series of international meetings and events including a private business briefing with the WTO. Our team presented on Australia's Global Supply Chains: Risk and Resilience, held sessions with the new ICC Court President and negotiators for the A-UKFTA, hosted a session on WTO Reform at ICC International Trade & Prosperity Week and spoke on the importance of interoperable blockchains in trade. ACCI and members also engaged with UN Women and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on supporting women's economic empowerment

The momentous 5th Annual ADC-ICC Asia Pacific Commercial Mediation Competition was conducted in September with a record number of university participants from across the globe. The competition winners will go on to represent the region in the 2022 Paris Moot Competition.

“

ACCI successfully facilitated a project between the Confederation of Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) and Dr Andrew Stoeckel on revitalising world trade. This was launched across a series of events in October including an event with Minister Dan Tehan, official receipt by the WTO, and discussion at the annual CACCI conference and World Chambers Congress.

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Tourism

The tourism industry has continued to feel the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, being impacted by the ban on international travel as well as state and territory border closures and operating restrictions.

In the last year Australian Chamber – Tourism has been advocating for a balance of activity across four work streams, calling for policy settings that carefully balance the promotion of vaccination, achieving support for tourism businesses, facilitating restart and contributing to the future tourism plan.

Throughout the year Australian Chamber – Tourism advocated for a range of tourism business support measures to maintain capacity to service businesses both domestically and internationally. Our Pre-Budget submission made in January expanded the focus beyond the immediate pandemic responses to issues relating to taxation and labour and skills. Further advocacy included ACCI's 'Tourism Post March 2021' Support Package Proposal and further requests for support in response to the Delta outbreaks, including the expansion of Job Saver type programs, amending the SME loan program, extension of the zoos and aquariums and the travel agents and tour operators packages, and a further round of the Business Events Grants program.

In April, the Government established the Reimagining the Visitor Economy Expert Panel to chart a course for sustainable long-term growth of the visitor economy after the devastating impact of COVID-19, led by former Minister for Tourism, the Hon. Martin Ferguson AM. The Australian Chamber – Tourism convened seven consultation sessions around the country to provide industry input to the Panel that were moderated by the Chair. In addition, a detailed submission was made to Austrade to provide input into the Expert Panel's deliberations of Reimagining the Visitor Economy.



Lobbying to Government to achieve support for tourism businesses



Calling for policy settings that enable effective restart of tourism



Facilitating the Tourism Restart Taskforce



John Hart, Executive Chair of Australian Chamber Tourism is interviewed by Danica De Giorgio concerning the impact of international border closures on Australia's domestic tourism industry.

“

This year has seen 9 meetings of the Tourism Restart Taskforce and 8 of the Tourism Committee, with guests including Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment the Hon Dan Tehan, The Hon. Peter Dutton MP, former Minister for Home Affairs, NSW Minister for Police and Emergency Services the Hon David Elliott MP, Singapore High Commissioner, His Excellency Fook Seng Kwok, and Joanne Loundes, COVID Coordination, DFAT.

”

The Tourism Restart Taskforce created several documents used in its advocacy, including the number of iterations of the Tourism Restart Timetable, the latest of which sets out an aspiration for reopening Australian Tourism and to get travel bubbles, outbound travel and domestic cruising back. These were well received by Industry and highly circulated on various media platforms.

With vaccination rates improving in the latter half of the year and the timelines for both domestic and international tourism restart firming up, Australian tourism is now at a critical point in the process of reopening from the COVID-19 restrictions. Australian Chamber – Tourism took the lead on the future of quarantine in Australia by mapping of the pathway to arrangements for quarantine beyond Phase B of the National Plan and identifying recommendations to form the basis of advocacy in relation to the future of quarantine.

Regular meetings between Austrade, Minister Tehan's office and Australian Chamber – Tourism also commenced to track key priority areas as determined by the Tourism Committee and the Taskforce. In addition, in September at the suggestion of Australian Chamber – Tourism, Austrade reconvened an Austrade-Industry Visitor Economy Forum, with over 40 tourism organisations attending the first meeting.

Executive Chair of Australian Chamber – Tourism, John Hart is on the Board of Tourism Australia and continues to represent the Australian Chamber – Tourism on the National Passenger Facilitation Committee, the Tourism Visa Advisory Group and the Tourism Access Working Group.



Workplace Relations

March 2021 saw the culmination of more than a year of ACCI advocacy successfully deliver important changes to the Fair Work Act to restore certainty and confidence in casual employment, as well as removing massive back pay risks to businesses throughout Australia following a series of adverse court decisions across recent years.

ACCI's workplace relations team represented members in extensive discussions with unions and government on amending legislation, and actively supported its passage through Parliament in the face of concerted union opposition and hostile lobbying.

This was a significant win for business, and for jobs, particularly for young people. The amendments resolved serious and pressing problems for Australian employers threatening enterprise and jobs, including an up to \$39 billion backpay liability to current and former casuals. Whilst it was disappointing that further changes were not passed to support small businesses and jobs and to restore confidence in enterprise bargaining; there is a solid foundation for ongoing advocacy in these areas following the work of ACCI and members.



Secured changes to the Fair Work Act to protect and maintain casual employment



Avoided \$39 billion in backpay liability for employers



Provided guidance to employers on the application of the JobKeeper regime, and on managing COVID-19 risks and vaccinations in the workplace



Following the amendments, ACCI took a leading role in their implementation to:

- Ensure new casual rules were applied to modern awards simply, practically and consistently.
- Ensure modern award variations as far as possible reflected and adopted the Fair Work Act casual definition and casual conversion provisions.
- Ensure the accuracy and practicality of the new Casual Employment Information Statement and the methods by which it can be provided to employees.

March also saw the end of the massive JobKeeper payment program. ACCI continued to actively assist and inform employers through to the end of JobKeeper; completing a series of JobKeeper guides assisting employers in preparing for the end of JobKeeper, including providing employers with template letters to send to staff.

As employers are again confronted with lockdowns, ACCI's extensive guidance materials for employers on matters such as standing down employees remained highly relevant.

Further urgent guidance was provided to employers on vaccinations and vaccine mandates as they became the pressing workplace relations challenges.

2021 also saw the culmination of more than two years of ACCI's work on discouraging and improving responses to sexual harassment, firstly through the Sex Discrimination Commissioner's Respect@Work Report and historic national inquiry into sexual harassment, and then working to influence the effective translation of the inquiry recommendations into legislation and other government actions.

ACCI represented members throughout the inquiry advancing practical, balanced ideas to change attitudes and behaviours, and to help employers respond more effectively to unacceptable workplace conduct. ACCI was pleased to see a Government response that balanced taking effective action and delivering change with practical considerations, and overall a massive initiative in this important area consistent with a number of key employer recommendations and priorities.



Informed the effective implementation of the Sex Discrimination Commissioner's Respect@Work Report and recommendations



Argued to maintain the existing 5-day unpaid domestic violence leave standard, opposing union claims for 10 days paid leave



Opposed calls for damaging restrictions on labour hire, contract and fixed term work, and casual employment



ACCI join the Sex Discrimination Commissioner's new Respect@Work Council during 2021 to continue to actively contribute to this work.

During 2021 ACCI also represented members on increases to the National Minimum Wage and modern award minimum wages, in the Annual Wage Review. The 2.5% increase awarded, whilst very difficult for struggling employers to meet was, following significant ACCI economic advocacy, less than sought by unions and significantly less than was being regularly awarded prior to the pandemic.

We also represented members in the Fair Work Commission with respect to working from home under the Clerks Award, and on the completion of various job saving award flexibilities and options inserted in the face of the pandemic and threats to jobs and businesses in 2020.

Following ACCI's previous successes in the creation of unpaid domestic violence leave and its inclusion in Australia's National Employment standards, the workplace relations team is addressing renewed pressures for paid leave. ACCI is preparing substantial evidence to support maintaining the unpaid standard our network secured in 2018 in a major Fair Work Commission review.

ACCI continues to spearhead opposition to Unions' claim for 10 days paid domestic violence leave, ensuring that employer voices are heard through a survey of members of chambers of commerce nationally, and bringing substantial evidence in support of maintaining the existing unpaid standard. ACCI continues to represent employers in the long running Senate Select Committee Inquiry into Job Security, now reporting in February 2022. ACCI has rigorously opposed the ACTU's 'insecure work' campaign, and defended the legitimacy and the economic and employment contribution made by Australian businesses having access to labour hire, independent contracting, outsourcing, fixed term employment, and casual employment.

ACCI is also playing a central role in determining how the Fair Work Commission will deal with disputes arising from employers directing / mandating COVID-19 vaccination in their workplaces, including following government health directions.

ACCI also participated in various other inquiries during the year including on portable long service leave, privacy and good faith defences.

We also continued to represent members, particularly small to medium sized businesses, on the Australian Government's Modern Slavery Expert Advisory Group, as it navigated lodging the first tranches of modern slavery statements ahead of the 31 March 2021 reporting deadline. To support our wider advocacy, ACCI's Workplace Policy Committee is comprehensively updating and consolidating ACCI's workplace relations policies to equip our network to prosecute the visions and priorities in our network's Better Australia initiative, and to positively influence and impact law and regulation in the lead up to and following the pending federal election.

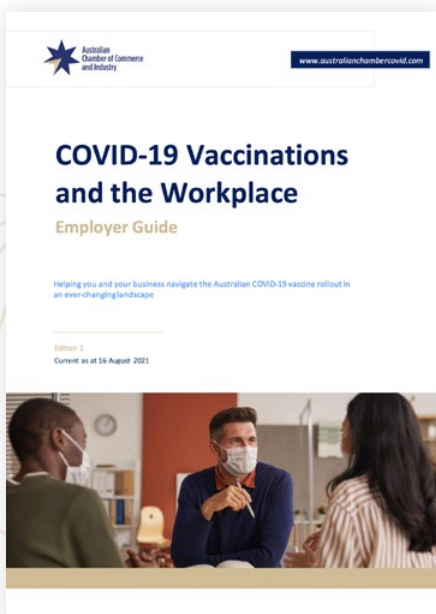
Health — COVID-19

2021 saw our COVID-19 focus shift to the vaccine rollout and plans for reopening. Our two key pieces of work were the *Reopening Australia* documents which were influential throughout the year as National Cabinet and Government(s) looked to reopening domestic activities and internationally.

In January, we produced a Vaccine Considerations Guide both for our member network and to facilitate discussions with key government stakeholders such as Treasury's Business Liaison Unit, Health and Department of Industry as the start of the rollout approached in February.

We continued to engage with the Attorney General's team, Safe Work Australia (SWA) and other key departments in relation to the vaccine's impact on workplaces, highlighting the complex legal issues that would arise from any requirement to mandate vaccination to work. We also worked with SWA to draft new guidance on WHS duties and vaccination in workplaces.

We joined the steering committee for the global initiative B2BCONVINCE along with representatives from the ICC, IOE, WHO and university based public health experts. As the Australian business representative on this coalition, we launched the Global Workplace Challenge designed to combat vaccine hesitancy in March. We also collated a range of vaccine rollout campaign resources published in a "COVID Vaccine Communications Campaign Kit" for members.



Facilitated business coverage in the Commonwealth's Vaccine Indemnity Scheme



Partnered with B2BCONVINCE to combat vaccine hesitancy



Influenced the phased National Plan through our Reopening Australia documents and engagement with Departments



Produced a Guide for employers on COVID-19 Vaccinations and the Workplace

Over April and May, ACCI dedicated significant time and effort to producing two advocacy papers on reopening Australia as the vaccine rollout progressed. *Reopening Australia, Part 1: Domestic Reopening and Living with COVID* was released in April and focused on domestic policies and recommendations and *Reopening Australia, Part 2: International Reopening*, which focused on international travel was released in May following the budget.

National Cabinet on 2nd July agreed to formulate a National Plan to transition Australia's National COVID Response from its current pre vaccination settings to post vaccination settings focussed on prevention of serious illness, hospitalisation and fatality. This initial plan was heavily influenced by ACCI's Reopening documents however there were key areas of concern that ACCI continued to advocate on including: developing a system to classify countries by risk, accelerating cohort pilot programs for skilled migrant workers, international students, seasonal workers and cruise personnel and progressing a vaccinated traveller pathway and alternative quarantine options.

As the shift into more extensive lockdowns occurred, ACCI ramped up its approaches to government to put in place improved support for businesses impacted by lockdowns. We also called for the reintroduction of Fair Work Act flexibilities which were going to be important in managing staff during and after the lockdowns. We continued our engagement on workplace vaccination issues and business involvement in the vaccine rollout, including participation on the Operation COVID Shield Business Forum and Attorney-General's Roundtable on workplace vaccinations. We worked with AGD and Safe Work Australia on updated COVID-19 guidance materials for workplaces and continued advocacy to oppose a COVID-19 WHS Code of Practice being introduced by WHS Regulators.

Following a third outbreak in NSW and Victoria, the focus returned to domestic issues. ACCI engaged with PM&C and Treasury on a plan for easing restrictions for vaccinated people at 70% and 80% double vaccination targets and maintaining public pressure on consistency and commitment to the National Plan and agreed thresholds.

In a big win for ACCI, the Commonwealth announced in August a new no fault scheme for vaccination providers backdated to February 2021. The scheme will cover those who experience an adverse reaction to COVID-19 vaccination.

Responding to an urgent information gap, ACCI's WR and WHS team prepared a comprehensive guide for employers on COVID-19 Vaccinations and the Workplace which received significant interest from members as well as government and other external stakeholders.

ACCI increased pressure on international travel reopening releasing a plan for international reopening where we called for 5 specific actions from Governments following the announcement of the recommencement of two-way travel for vaccinated Australians. ACCI also joined Quarantine Services Australia's (QSA) Industry Advisory Council which is working with Home Affairs on the coordination of entry into Australia of all non-Australian residents as part of labour and student migration programs.



Work Health & Safety

In early 2021, SWA and other agency activity began to pick up again after a pause in 2020 to focus on the COVID-19 response.

We worked with SWA to publish new WHS guidance on workplace sexual harassment and violence and aggression whilst continuing consultation on the Workplace Exposure Standards Review.

We strongly advocated for industry and small business in discussions around psychological safety and health through the Mentally Healthy Workplace Alliance, in development of a new mental health and organisational disruption skillset for the VET sector, and in consultations on a new NSW and national model Psychosocial Hazards Code of Practice.

A major event for this year was the WHS Ministers meeting on 20th May to determine the outcome of the model WHS laws Review. Significant advocacy work was undertaken in the lead up to this. ACCI and our member network were broadly successful with 24/34 recommendations supported by Ministers in line with our preferred position. Influencing how these recommendations and the remaining 10 will be implemented has been the focus of advocacy since.

Dissatisfied with the transparency and application of decision-making criteria, industry consultation and accuracy of regulatory impact analyses for new regulation and Codes of Practice, ACCI increased engagement with PM&C's deregulation and regulatory policy divisions, the Office of Best Practice Review (OBPR), Attorney-General's Department and Safe Work Australia to push for greater accountability and engagement from SWA and its jurisdictional Members.

The WHS&WC Committee contributed to the revision of several SWA guides including on: WHS duties in a contractual chain, delivery riders, delivery platforms and food outlets, managing the risks of industrial rope access systems, elevating work platforms and concrete placing.

Through SWA Member meetings, ACCI had a number of policy wins including: finalisation of a new Psychological Risk Regulation that excludes the hierarchy of control and significant prescription, influence on the content of a new psychosocial hazard Code and agreement from SWA Members to a RIA process for a new regulation that would cover uncontrolled processing of all silica-containing materials.

Coinciding with Mental Health Week during Safe Work Month, ACCI released a new report titled: *Small Business, Mental Health; navigating the complex landscape*. The report highlights the unique challenges small businesses face in managing their own mental health, their employee's mental health and the myriad of intersecting workplace regulations.



Media

Our public advocacy kicked off this year with the Chamber calling out our leaders' disproportionate reactions to local COVID outbreaks, particularly as state borders slammed shut over the school holiday period in January and whole industries such as tourism were left high and dry.

ACCI outlined the need for a reopening plan with our Vaccine Considerations Guide, launched with a front-page splash in *The Weekend Australian* in January. The coverage laid the foundation for our international and domestic reopening plans in the following months.

In March, ACCI strongly advocated for the majority of the changes in the IR Omnibus Bill, while voicing our objections to its schedule on criminalization. Despite a strong misinformation campaign from the unions, the Chamber's sensible approach was vindicated by editorials in the national papers.

ACCI's own four-stage plan, *Reopening Australia*, released in May received considerable coverage and foreshadowed many elements of the current National Plan. Our advocacy brought attention to the detrimental labour and skills shortages arising from the blocked migration pipeline, and the need for continued support across struggling sectors.

The Federal Budget handed down by Treasurer Josh Frydenberg saw ACCI enjoy significant impressions across a variety of traditional and digital media platforms. The Treasurer's pre-budget speech to ACCI was widely publicised in print and radio, with live coverage of the event broadcast on ABC and Sky News.

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In total, our reach across news print, online and broadcast remained strong from January to October with 481 print mentions, 6027 online mentions, 1820 television mentions and 3192 mentions on radio.

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THE AUSTRALIAN
FOR THE PROGRESSIVE AUSTRALIAN

15 August 2021

'Now's the time to plan for open borders,' says ACCI chief Andrew McKellar

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's new chief executive Andrew McKellar has warned that Australia is in danger of "resting on its laurels" in its handling of Covid, calling for better planning for government quarantine hotels, vaccine booster shots and other measures to "get ahead of the curve".

Chief Executive Andrew McKellar's front-page feature splash in *The Australian Business Review*.

In June, ACCI launched its 2021 National Trade Survey with Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan. The survey, which identified enduring impediments for Australian businesses competing internationally, was covered across major news outlets, generating strong coverage.

As ACCI's new chief executive Andrew McKellar commenced his role in August, our two largest states were forced back into lockdown. During this time, ACCI has continued to promote our members' interests, advocating for adequate support and a reopening timetable as thousands of businesses were forced to close their doors.

Workplace vaccinations and testing have received prominent media coverage. ACCI strongly advocated for an indemnity scheme to protect employers who may face costly claims when facilitating workplace jobs. Further, ACCI also pushed for the provision of rapid antigen testing in the workplace.

In October, ACCI's Better Australia strategy was launched. The initiative generated strong media coverage, with more than 800 individual mentions across broadcast, digital and print media in the media including three front page newspaper stories.

In total, our reach across news print, online and broadcast remained strong from January to October with 481 print mentions, 6027 online mentions, 1820 television mentions and 3192 mentions on radio.



ACCI CEO Andrew McKellar calls on the Federal Government to expedite the rollout of rapid testing in an interview with Karl Stefanovic on the Today Show.



Pre-Budget speech event hosted at Parliament House by ACCI with the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP and ACCI members.

The Year in Numbers

Social Media



Twitter

290

Posts

11,985

Engagements

+316

Followers

375,094

Impressions

65,221

Page visits



LinkedIn

189

Posts

12,327

Engagements

+1586

Followers

209,265

Impressions

7,405

Page visits



Facebook

147

Posts

2,502

Engagements

+147

Followers

45,538

Impressions

792

Page visits



Events

70

Events

50 Video conferences

20 Live networking events

7,503

Event attendees

104

Member newsletters sent



Media & Submissions

79

Media releases

6,508

Print & online articles

33

Policy submissions

5,012

Radio & TV appearances

Policy Submissions

1. Economic Recovery Package (JobMaker Hiring Credit) Amendment Bill 2020 (October 2020)
2. Review Australia's alcohol maturation requirements under section 105A of the Customs Act 1901 (Customs Act). (November, 17, 2020)
3. Singapore Convention Response (November, 23, 2020)
4. Pre-Budget Submission 2021-22 (January 2021)
5. Australian Chamber Tourism Pre-budget Submission 2021-22 (January 2021)
6. National Consumer Credit Protection Amendment (Supporting Economic Recovery) Bill 2020 (February, 3, 2021)
7. Customs Amendment (Banning Goods Produced By Uyghur Forced Labour) Bill 2020 (5 February 2021)
8. Planning Australia's 2021-22 Migration Program (February 2021)
9. Australia's Skilled Migration Program (March 2021)
10. 2020-21 Annual Wage Review First Submission of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (March 2021)
11. Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration's Inquiry into Australia's Skilled Migration Program (March 2021)
12. University Research Commercialisation Scheme (April 2021)
13. Inquiry into expanding membership of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). (April 16, 2021)
14. Australian Strategy for International Education 2021-2030 (May 2021)
15. Reimagining the Visitor Economy Submission (June 2021)
16. Review of the Coal Industry Long Service Leave Framework (12 July 2021)
17. National Consumer Credit Protection Amendment (Supporting Economic Recovery) Bill 2020 (February, 3, 2021)
18. Review of the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (March 2021)
19. Increasing the Statutory Demand Threshold (March, 5, 2021)
20. Response to the Interim report on the Vulnerability of Supply Chains (April, 30 2021)
21. Proposed amalgamation of BPAY, Eftpos and NPPA (April 2021)
22. Review of the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman (ASBFEO) (July 2021)
23. Proposed improvements to the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code consultation paper version 1.0, May 2021 (June 2021)
24. Inquiry into procurement practices for government-funded infrastructure (July, 21, 2021)
25. Review of Retail Payments Regulation (August 9, 2021)
26. Review of the Australian Payments System (December, 24, 2020)
27. Migration Amendment (Protecting Migrant Workers) Bill 2021 Exposure Draft ACCI Submission (16 August 2021)
28. Victorian Secure Work Pilot Submission (August 2021)
29. Proposed amalgamation of BPAY, eftpos and NPPA – proposed undertaking (August 2021)
30. Sex Discrimination and Fair Work (Respect at Work) Amendment Bill 2021 (July 2021)
31. Fair Work Amendment (Supporting Australia's Jobs and Economic Recovery) Bill 2020 (February 2021)
32. Submission to Senate Select Committee on Job Security (March 2021)
33. Response to consultation draft of the VET Workforce Strategy (September 2021)

Member Events

Business Leaders Summit

Hosted by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Business Leaders' Summit 2021 brought together Australian Chamber members, Government Ministers and Australia's top business leaders to hear from leading experts about creating a smarter, fairer, bigger, sustainable and more resilient Australia. Treasurer, the Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP and Shadow Treasurer, Dr Jim Chalmers MP both shared their views on Australia's future and referred to ACCI's future visions document 'Better Australia'.



The ACCI Business Leaders Summit virtual event with addresses by the Treasurer, the Hon. Josh Frydenberg and Shadow Treasurer, Dr Jim Chalmers MP.

The launch of 'Better Australia: Securing the foundations for a stronger and smarter future'

Australia has an enormous opportunity to be bold, to be visionary, and to set our sights on becoming an economic and geopolitical powerhouse. We've battled a once in a century pandemic, presenting the most challenging economic environment in more than a generation. ACCI has a vision to take this opportunity and rebuild our great country, to revitalise our future for all and achieve a Better Australia.

In this document ACCI seeks to look beyond the short-term struggles to consider how, as we strive to get a better Australia, we can focus on longer term goals so we can build stronger foundations for the next generation.

Our policy visions, goals and recommendations in Better Australia reflect the collective wisdom, experience and ambition of a network representing thousands of businesses, large and small, from every corner of the country and in every sector of the economy.

For more information visit www.better-australia.com.au



List of Member Events

February

- **22nd February** – ACCI Video Conference with the Hon Jason Wood MP, Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs
- **18th February** – ACCI Zoom Conference with Stephen Smith, Partner, Deloitte Access Economics
- **24th February** – Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry exclusive keynote address with the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Treasurer of Australia

March

- **2nd March** – ACCI Video Conference with James O'Halloran Deputy Commissioner, Economic Stimulus Branch Australian Taxation Office
- **9th March** – The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) exclusive breakfast in Brisbane with the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Treasurer of Australia
- **11th March** – Chain of Survival and Heart Health in the Workplace with Greg Page, Heart of the Nation and Adj. Prof. John Kelly AM, Heart Foundation
- **16th March** – Zoom Conference - The Indigenous Voice proposals update with Co-chairs of the Senior Advisory Group, Professor Dr Marcia Langton AO and Professor Tom Calma AO
- **19th March** – Zoom Conference with Julian Leeser MP Chair of Joint Standing Committee on Migration & Chair of Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs
- **30th March** – ACCI Breakfast with the Hon Michael McCormick MP, Deputy Prime Minister
- **30th March** – ACCI in conjunction with Mastercard, cyber security and business resilience video conference



April

- **27th April** – ACCI reception with Rod Sims the Chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)



- **29th April** – ACCI Pre Budget briefing with the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP The Federal Treasurer & Session with the Hon Bruce Billson ASBFEO



May

- **7th May** – ACCI Upfront & Personal with Brian Hartzer - The Leadership Star A Practical Guide to Building Engagement
- **12th May** – ACCI's 2021 Federal Budget Briefing and Federal Labor's Budget Response
- **17th May** – ACCI & Business SA Federal Budget Breakfast Briefing with the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Treasurer
- **18th May** – ACCI & Business NSW Federal Budget Breakfast Briefing with the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Treasurer



- **20th May** – ACCI & Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce & Industry Federal Budget Morning Tea Briefing with the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Treasurer
- **20th May** – ACCI Zoom session with Mr George Christensen MP Chair of Joint Standing Committee on Trade and Investment Growth
- **27th May** – ACCI Zoom Session with the Australian Ambassador the Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO

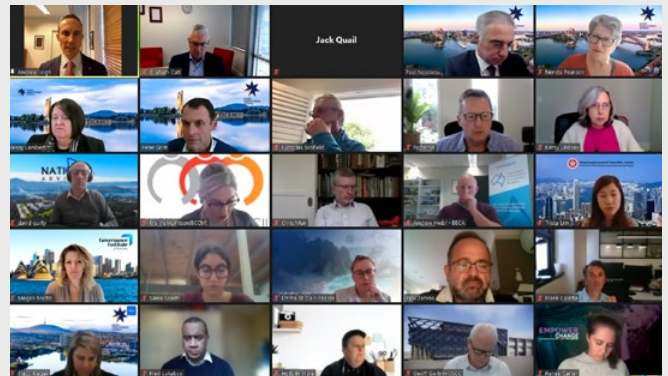


June

- **4th June** – ACCI National Trade Survey Report Launch 2021
- **10th June** – ACCI Video Conference with George Christensen MP, Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Trade and Investments Growth

July

- **2nd July** – ACCI Zoom Conference with The Hon John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier of NSW
- **5th July** – ACCI Zoom Session with The Hon Keith Pitt MP, Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia
- **7th July** – ACCI Zoom Session with Tim Wilson MP, Chair, Standing Committee of Economics, Federal Member for Goldstein
- **8th July** – ACCI Zoom Session with The Hon Andrew Hastie MP, Federal Member for Canning Assistant Minister for Defence
- **13th July** – ACCI Zoom Session with The Hon Ed Husic MP, Federal Member for Chifley, Shadow Minister for Industry and Innovation
- **20th July** – ACCI Zoom Session with Christos Cabolis, Chief Economist, IMD World Competitiveness Centre
- **21st July** – ACCI Zoom Session with Jason McDonald, Head of Deregulation Taskforce, DPM&C and Sandra Roussel, Assistant Secretary, Regulatory Policy Brand, Economic Division, DPM&C
- **23rd July** – ACCI Zoom Session with Trent Zimmerman MP, Chair, Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport, Federal Member for North Sydney
- **26th July** – ACCI Zoom Session with The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh, Shadow Assistant Minister for Treasury and Charities, Federal Member for Fenner in the ACT
- **28th July** – ACCI Zoom Session with Jim Chalmers MP, Federal Shadow Treasurer
- **30th July** – ACCI Zoom session with Victoria Anderson, Executive Director Centre for Population, The Treasury to discuss the Federal Government's 2021 Intergenerational Report



August

- **4th August** – ACCI Zoom Conference with The Hon Josh Freydenberg MP, Treasurer
- **4th August** – Expert Panel Video Conference - CreditorWatch Economic Road Ahead EOFY Playbook 2021-22
- **11th August** – ACCI Zoom Session with The Hon Bruce Billson, Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman
- **13th August** – ACCI Zoom Session with Professor and Director of Doherty Epidemiology Jodie McVernon from the Doherty Institute
- **20th August** – ACCI Zoom Session with Dr David Gruen Agency Head of the Australian Bureau of Statistics
- **24th August** – Online Launch of National Skills Weeks 2021 with the Hon Stuart Robert MP, Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business
- **31st August** – ICC & ACCI Zoom Session with DFAT Representatives, Elizabeth Bowes and Arjuna Nadaraja



September

- **1st September** – ACCI Zoom Session with Michael Stutbury, Chief in Editor, The Australian Financial Review
- **3rd September** – ACCI Zoom Session with Jason Falinski MP, Federal Member for Mackellar, Chair of the Standing Committee on Tax and Revenue



- **6th September** – ACCI Zoom Session with the Hon Alan Tudge MP, Minister for Education and Youth, Federal Member for Aston

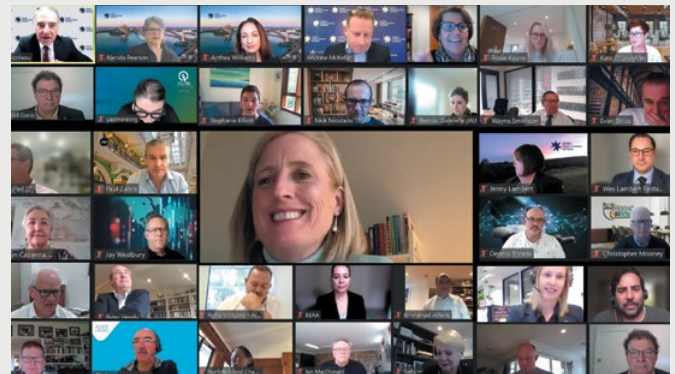


- **8th September** – ACCI Zoom Session with Peter Verwer AO, Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Global Business and Talent Attraction
- **15th September** – ACCI Zoom Session with Ted O'Brien MP, Federal Member for Fairfax Qld, Chair of the Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy, Special Envoy for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

- **17th September** – ACCI Zoom Session with Hugh Mackay, Author and Social Psychologist
- **20th September** – ACCI Zoom Session with The Hon Richard Marles MP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Minister for National Reconstruction, Employment, Skills and Small Business, Shadow Minister for Science



- **28th September** – ACCI Zoom Session with Dennis Shanahan, National Editor of The Australian
- **29th September** – ACCI Zoom Session with Senator Katy Gallagher, Shadow Minister for Finance, Shadow Minister for the Public Service, Chair of the Senate Select Committee on COVID-19



- **30th September** – ACCI Zoom Session with Patrick Coghlan and James O'Donnell

October

- **5th October** – ACCI Zoom Session with Claudia Salomon, President of the ICC International Court of Arbitration
- **6th October** – ACCI Zoom Session with The Hon Michael Sukkar MP, Assistant Treasurer, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Social and Community Housing
- **12th October** – ACCI Zoom Session with the Hon Dr David Gillespie, Minister for Regional Health, Minister for Assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment
- **15th October** – ACCI Zoom Session with Michelle Baxter, CEO, SafeWork and Lucy Brogden AM, Chair, National Mental Health Commission
- **19th October** – ACCI Business Leaders' Summit 2021
- **21st October** – ACCI Zoom Session with Stephen Rue, CEO at NBN Co









**Australian
Chamber of Commerce
and Industry**