

## FINANCIAL INCLUSION ACTION PLAN (FIAP)

# Statement of Commitment

June 2017

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**Paul Jenkins**  
Managing Partner,  
Ashurst

### MESSAGE FROM PAUL JENKINS

At Ashurst, we see the law as a profession that comes with ethical obligations. We believe that all individuals should have access to the legal system, irrespective of their financial situation. This is a fundamental reason why we are pleased to join the Financial Inclusion Action Plan (“FIAP”) Program and community.

As an international law firm that has been helping clients achieve their goals for nearly 200 years, we recognise that the legal services we provide can offer security and social justice to individuals and communities, particularly for those that are the most vulnerable.

In joining the FIAP community, we commit to serving as a link between the legal profession and financially vulnerable individuals and communities throughout Australia. By partnering with fellow FIAP organisations to share information and resources, we will work together to ensure that individuals and communities can gain access to the legal system regardless of their financial position, and we will continue to advocate for their rights in consultation with them.

We already support individuals and organisations, including those who are financially vulnerable, through our pro bono practice and our corporate responsibility program. The focus areas in our pro bono practice include: working with Indigenous Australians, people with disabilities and their carers, and people in rural, regional and remote areas. Our commitment to diversity and inclusion is also critical to ensuring we build an inclusive workplace culture that supports and encourages equality. Our diversity and inclusion initiatives, such as our Wellbeing Officer Program, Women’s Network and family and domestic violence paid leave policy, are designed to support our people (and the communities in which we operate) and create an inclusive workplace environment. Through formally developing and implementing our FIAP, we commit to continuing to devote resources, share knowledge and embed best practice processes further into our business to assist those at risk.

The FIAP initiative goes to the foundation of our profession. We acknowledge Ashurst has the expertise, capabilities and resources to reduce inequalities by assisting vulnerable Australians in developing financial inclusion and resilience. In developing our own FIAP, we are proud and excited to collaborate with the FIAP Partnership Group and other FIAP organisations to better support this national effort to help Australians reach their financial goals and achieve financial inclusion and resilience.



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Managing Partner,  
Ashurst



## Our Commitment

Ashurst is committed to harnessing our diverse commercial skill set and collective expertise to assist financially excluded and vulnerable Australians. To recognise this, we will develop and formally launch our FIAP in 2017. Our aim is to support financially vulnerable Australians and communities by equipping them with the skills and frameworks to help them become financially independent and confident.

To achieve this, we have identified the following key actions which reflect and support our commitment to bringing greater and more sustainable financial inclusion and resilience to individuals and communities.

| FIAP ACTION AREA                                   | ASHURST'S COMMITMENT  |
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| Products & Services                                | We will collaborate across all areas within our firm and with our peer firms in the FIAP community to provide financially vulnerable or otherwise disadvantaged Australians with access to the legal system and to advocate for their rights, which will ultimately contribute to financial inclusion and resilience.   |
| Capabilities, Attitudes & Behaviours               | As a trusted advisor within our business, professional, and commercial spheres of influence, we will work to educate and inform our target audience, to motivate and engage, and to influence and guide to action. We will work closely with vulnerable individuals and groups to provide them with the information and resources to grow their awareness and understanding in a way that promotes financial inclusion and resilience. Equipping them with the requisite knowledge and skills to enhance their individual financial resilience, and working to break down legal barriers to that goal, will ultimately contribute to a greater sense of equality, inclusive and sustainable growth, and help build financially confident and resilient communities. |
| Awareness & Understanding of Culture and Diversity | Ashurst is committed to diversity, inclusion and equality. We actively support and encourage diversity across all areas of our firm, and honour this commitment through the way we operate, our culture, and our people. We will continue to strengthen our investment in diversity and inclusion by drawing on the expertise and resources of our practice groups and business functions, as well as the specific expertise of our diversity and inclusion, pro bono and corporate responsibility teams. We will work with our people and the wider FIAP community to help overcome the economic and social factors that can act as barriers to financial inclusion.   |
| Economic Participation & Status                    | <p>Our strategy is to develop a multi-disciplinary approach to our FIAP which will draw on expertise and resources across our practice groups, our business and support functions. As a global law firm we can also draw on and contribute our expertise and resources in our offices across the world. This will enable us to seek out global experiences, successes and learnings from across our firm which we can apply to our FIAP.</p> <p>We will use our resources, and work together with the FIAP community, to develop and implement a best practice framework which will facilitate inclusion by serving as a link between the legal profession and financially vulnerable individuals and communities.</p>  |

We look forward to developing and implementing our Financial Inclusion Action Plan in 2017, through collaborating with Good Shepherd Microfinance, the Centre for Social Impact, EY and the Australian Government.



**Paul Jenkins**  
Managing Partner,  
Ashurst



**Adam Mooney**  
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Good Shepherd Microfinance