



CHARTERED SECRETARIES
AUSTRALIA

Leaders in governance

Referral to CAMAC — guidance for directors

The government has asked CAMAC to consider what guidance is available for both executive and non-executive directors to appreciate the responsibilities inherent in their role.

Chris Bowen, the Minister for Financial Services, Superannuation and Corporate Law, has requested that CAMAC examine guidance available to directors overseas and the extent of information available to Australian executive and non-executive directors. The Minister also directed that CAMAC advise whether guidance to directors would be best introduced via a code of conduct, best practice guidelines or regulation and referred to the expectations of directors highlighted by the *James Hardie case*.

For instance, the Minister referred to a number of UK inquiries since the early 1990s which resulted in the *Code of Best Practice* and the *Combined Code on Corporate Governance*, and also the *Good Practice Suggestions from the Higgs Report* which provide guidance for non-executive directors and directors more generally.

From the Minister's direction, it is apparent that CAMAC's report will be intended to supplement the second edition of the ASX Corporate Governance Council's *Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations*.

In this context, the booklet *Officers, Directors and Governance* is available from CSA, as well as a number of training programs for those who are interested in learning more.

CAMAC is to present its report to the government by 30 April 2010.