

Sustainability in supply chains

Achieving real change for sustainability in supply chains

Program description

Businesses are facing increasing pressures to find strategic opportunities to deliver positive environmental and social outcomes. Supply chain operations are fundamental to the sustainability performance of core business operations. The **Sustainability in supply chains** program aims to achieve organisational change towards sustainability in corporations and their supply chain operations. This year-long program will engage several Australian corporations and their supply chain members from two sectors.

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Background to this program

This program builds on the recently completed **Industry Sustainability Project (ISP)** which involved ten major corporate and government organisations making change for sustainability. The ISP used a learning-based approach to change management to engage and empower people to implement systemic organisational change. The booklet *Shifting towards sustainability: Six insights into successful organisational change for sustainability*, shares insights into successful change for sustainability gained by the organisations, see <http://www.aries.mq.edu.au/pdf/InsightsBooklet.pdf>.

What this program aims to achieve

This program aims to achieve real and measurable sustainability gains in corporations and their supply chain operations using a learning-based approach to change. This approach will be monitored and evaluated on its effectiveness as a model for achieving sustainability outcomes in other corporations. It is expected the program will:

- **enhance sustainability performance in supply chains**, such as improved policies, procurement standards and practices, e.g. reduced greenhouse gas emissions or waste
- **improve sustainability in the corporations' supply chain members' activities**, such as improved packaging, resource use, waste management and logistics, or new forms of cooperation
- **progress towards culture change for sustainability within corporations**, such as increased capacity and motivation of individual participants, and engaging each other in alternative ways to approach supply chain issues
- **create longer term sustainability impacts**, such as ongoing learning relationships, collaboration, and program results being scaled up and transferred to other contexts.

Why this program is different

This program will be informed by **Education for Sustainability** principles and **action research** to build both the capacity to make change towards sustainability, and the institutional networks needed to bring about change within the system. This program will focus on supply chain networks and the important human dimension of supply chain interactions, building operational partnerships and the ability of the supply chain members to move towards sustainability.

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