

# Jessica Mead

## Director in Melbourne

+61 3 9038 3123 / +61 448 799 618

jmead@mcgrathnicol.com

Jessica is an experienced forensic accountant, specialising in the provision of investigations and forensic advisory services. She partners with clients to manage fraud risks proactively and reactively, cultivating trusted relationships underpinned by a collaborative focus.

Jessica has led a broad range of investigations that encompass fraud and misconduct in business, reconstruction of accounting and financial records and assessment of transactions that may result in recovery of funds in the context of litigation.

Jessica's forensic expertise includes:

- Financial investigations, procurement investigations and risk management
- Fraud and employee misconduct investigations, including misappropriation of assets, kick-back payments, bribery and corruption and other corporate fraud
- Expert witness and litigation support, including quantification of economic loss or damages
- Corporate governance and fraud risk assessments
- Consulting and advisory services for financial crime prevention and regulatory remediation
- Dispute advisory, including loss and damage quantification, critique of other experts and expert witness reporting.

More recently, Jessica has partnered with McGrathNicol's data analytics team in the provision of dynamic and innovative investigations into vast datasets to interrogate and identify fraud risks and anomalous data points in conjunction with the identification of control weaknesses that give rise to potentially fraudulent behaviour.

## Engagement Experience —

### Investigations and fraud risk experience

- Investigations into allegations of fraud and misconduct, including the misappropriation of funds, conflicts of interest, theft of physical assets and inappropriate use of corporate credit cards; leading the review, reconciliations and analysis to determine the extent, reasons for and methods of financial crime activity. These investigations have involved designing and implementing investigation plans, the conduct of formal and informal interviews, the taking of witness statements, the analysis of evidence, quantification of misappropriated amounts and drafting of reports of factual findings.



## Qualifications & Memberships —

- Member, CA ANZ
- Associate Member, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners
- Bachelor of Commerce (with merit, with inclusion on the Dean's Merit List) majoring in Accounting and Finance from Deakin University, Melbourne



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- Reconstruction and reconciliation of financial statements, accounting records and ledgers in circumstances where records may be inadequate.
- Suspicious transaction analysis: various confidential engagements whereby various general ledger transactions, control deficiencies and evidence gathered through forensic imaging were brought to attention of clients.
- Investigations into insolvent entities suspected of regulatory breaches, including the affairs of the entities and its officers.
- Inspections of financial records for confidential and litigious matters.
- Conducting interviews, including information gathering of suspects and witnesses.
- Undertaking fraud risk assessments, and assisting clients prevent, detect and respond to fraud and corruption. As a part of the fraud risk assessments conducted, providing clients insights to their fraud and corruption risks from conducting anonymous online surveys and providing meaningful interpretation of the survey results to effect remediation and strengthen controls.
- Conducting workshops with key stakeholders to discuss fraud control and bribery / corruption issues and the application of local and international requirements including facilitation of training sessions and development of training material.
- Wage remediation and quantification of underpayment related to employment contracts, Enterprise Bargaining Agreements and Awards and delivery of associated remediation programs.
- Audits and inspections of financial crime related regulatory compliance arrangements, including policies, processes, procedures and testing of controls.

### Consulting expert and litigation support experience

- Advice on supporting a company's EBITDA, the subject of an earn-out dispute.
- Financial due diligence of a solar hot water company and consultation with the parties Australian financier, including the preparation of a three-way financial model.
- Identification and valuation of a number of privately held entities in respect of divorce settlement proceedings.
- Review of financial accounts prepared after the sale of a business in light of alleged representations made by the vendor pre-sale resulting in the successful unwinding of the transaction.
- Review and critique of the methodology and assessment made by multiple expert reports quantifying the loss of a claim in the Dust Disease Tribunal of New South Wales.
- Advice on the application of various accounting standards, including advice in relation to revenue recognition and assessment of employee entitlement liabilities.
- Reconstruction of suspicious transactions and provision of accounting advice for the Australian Government Solicitor.

### Independent expert appointments

- Assessment of loss and damage relating to an earlier hypothetical liquidation scenario for a managed investment scheme that went into liquidation.
- Assessment of loss suffered as a result of a number of alleged misleading and deceptive conduct, including critique of opposing expert's report and preparation of joint expert's report.
- Assessment of a company's solvency in the context of a preference action against former directors.



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- Assistance in the preparation of Independent Accountant determination in relation to the preparation and content of vendor statements prepared in relation to the sale of a retail business (Dyluc Pty Ltd v Holgye & Ors).
- Assessment of the effect from an accounting perspective of financial variances arising in relation to a number of planned transactions upon disclosed forecasts of a listed entity (Modtech Engineering Pty Ltd v GPT Management Holdings Ltd & Anor).
- Independent analysis of a not-for-profit organisation's compliance with certain statutory reporting obligations and corporate governance requirements (Ananda Marga Pracaraka Samgha Limited v Tomar (No 6)).
- Assessment of loss suffered by a brewing company as a result of a damaged brewing tank (Elixir Signature Pty Ltd v I.C Hire Pty Ltd).