

The University of Melbourne (Ormond College)

Member Information

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Major</u>
Hamish Anderson	2017	Accounting and Finance
Aisling Eyers	2018	Politics and Chinese
Tishya Desai	2017	Politics

Advisor(s): Ormond College

Topic: 'Going out of Fashion' – An ethical dilemma

Division: Undergraduate

Audience: The Panel of Exon Key Stakeholders and Decision Makers

Sustainable Development Goal

SDG #: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Target #: **10.3:** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

Indicator #: **10.3.1:** Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

Executive Summary

The 21st Century has seen a rise in both the presence of multi-national corporations operating in a global business environment alongside a heightened importance for ethical considerations in corporate decision making as a result of amendments to legislation, media scrutiny and changing consumer demands. In this case study, Lisa, a partner at Exon, has been contracted by the Australian Human Rights Commission to investigate the manufacturing operations of a major client, Glamour, to ensure their practices meet regulation requirements. Lisa overhears information that Glamour may be subcontracting work to a factory with questionable practices and now has two competing obligations, which form the crux of this dilemma: to report the information she has heard to the AHRC and protect the human rights of the factory workers, or to remain within her contractual scope and protect the reputational and financial interests of Glamour and Exon. Throughout this presentation, by analyzing the relevant legal, ethical and financial implications of this dilemma, and coming to a conclusion that is consistent with sustainable development, we will argue that Lisa should absolutely disclose this information to the Commission. We will work through the legal background and obligations that are relevant to this case, assess her ethical obligation with the competing corporation interests, review the financial consequences and benefits that Glamour and Exon may be subject to in regards to the disclosure of this information, and finally address how our recommended solution has positive impacts for a corporation attempting to contribute to sustainable development.