

VIVEK SINGHA

M B A | C P A

FINANCE, TAX, COMPLIANCE AND SYSTEMS LEADER

Accomplished, innovative and resourceful executive with over 25 years' expertise in driving complex finance, tax, compliance and IT outcomes, across Finance, Technology, Manufacturing and FMCG

PROFILE

- Proven record of leveraging technology and a hands-on leadership approach to deliver impressive results including improved operational efficiency and tax governance, lower effective tax rate and minimised tax risk.
- Achieved over \$5M in tax savings, reduced close times from 12 to 4 days, automated bank reconciliation process, streamlined routine month end and analysis data input reports and ensured timely resolution of complex disputes.
- Expertise in local and US GAAP, compliance, tax and financial accounting standards, along with strong financial management experience, including internal and external reporting, treasury, taxation, planning and financial control.
- Board, Company secretarial and corporate governance experience, complemented by expertise in continuous improvement, corporate finance, tax and treasury, transactional finance (AP), SOX, internal controls, external advisor management and risk functions.
- Exceptional team leadership, with proven results in building capability and a high-performing inclusive organisational culture, engaging and empowering teams of up to 50 specialists to deliver impressive results.
- Strong business acumen with expertise in driving successful tax, transfer pricing, finance, compliance and finance systems change management processes.
- Significant systems experience including implementations of Oracle Hyperion HFM, SAP S/4 HANA, IAS 16 Lease management software's (VisualLease and Deloitte LeaseController) and tax software (Integrator / OneSource).
- A philanthropist with extensive volunteer experience including, but not limited to roles of Founder Director at FoxG1 (Brain Factor1) Foundation Australia; Treasurer at DAMEC; President at GOPIO Sydney; Board Member, Director and Treasurer at Western Sydney Community Centre and Federal Candidate for the Liberal Party of Aus. Federal Elections.
- Outstanding communicator with the ability to influence and build deeply engaging relationships on all levels and manage stakeholder relations through networking and engagement strategies, collaborative approach, clear reporting, open communication and provision of expert advice.

EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY

AUSTRALIA		2005 - Present
Axicorp Financial Services Pty Ltd	Global Head of Tax	2020 - 2021
Travelport Limited	APAC Finance and Tax Manager / Financial Controller – Asia Pacific	2019 - 2020
FMC Limited	Tax and Finance Manager / Acting Financial Controller - ANZ	2017 - 2019
Kimberly-Clark Australia	Tax Accounting Specialist (Tax Compliance Manager)	2011 - 2017
James & Monroe	Enterprise Performance Management – Consultant	2009 - 2011
Ernst & Young	Consultant – Tax TARAS Tax Accounting and Risk Advisory Services	2007 - 2009
Browne & Co	Tax and Finance Accountant	2006 - 2007
CNR Accounting & Tax	Tax and Finance Accountant	2004 - 2006
INDIA		1996 - 2003
Alpha Thought Technologies	Assistant Manager IT	2002 - 2003
Kana Communications	IT Systems Manager - Environment Specialist	2001 - 2002
IBM Global Services	Program Manager Technology / Infrastructure Team Leader	2000 - 2001
Roar Technologies	Systems and Network Administrator	1999 - 2000
Woodward Governor India	Senior Engineer Vendor Develop. / Production and Support Systems Eng.	1996 - 1999

QUALIFICATIONS

MBA (Major in Professional Accounting) University of Technology Sydney	2005
Bachelor of Arts, Economics, Public Administration, Political Science Punjab University	1999
Oracle HFM11 Implementation Specialist Oracle Learning	2011
CPA Program – Full member CPA Australia	2009
Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer Microsoft Certifications	1999
Diploma in Mechanical Engineering Indo-Swiss Training Centre	1996

KEY SKILLS

Finance, Tax and Compliance	Change Management (Finance, reporting and transactional Systems)	Leadership and Influential Power
Information Technology Systems and Infrastructure	Financial Management and Internal (Board, Exco and business), External (External Audit, ASIC, ATO)	Stakeholder Engagement and Management / Board Reporting
Taxation Law, and Policy Transfer pricing	US GAAP, AU GAAP and IFRS Tax and Accounting Standards	Legislative, Regulatory and Compliance Frameworks
Complex, Technical and Sensitive Taxation Disputes Resolution	Continuous Improvement of Business Procedures and Processes	Integrity and Ethical Decision Making

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Global Head of Tax | Axicorp Financial Services Pty Ltd

May 2020 – Oct 2021

Axicorp is an Australian privately held financial services business dealing in CFD's and OTC Fx markets, with international presence, trades volumes in excess of 1.4 Trillion a year and a 50% year on year growth.

- Spearheaded group tax function, including structuring, transactions and direct and indirect taxes for Australia, UK, Singapore, and SVG, along with managing Australian income tax returns (IDS and transfer pricing, FBT, GST, ESS, CRS and FATCA reporting).
- Drove income tax consolidation, tax planning, tax risk management and applied highly effective tax cash flow strategies including transfer pricing rationalisation and group structuring.
- Managed group's tax compliance obligations and worldwide tax accounting and reporting obligations including monthly tax provision, forecasting, quarterly and year-end tax calculations and financial report disclose notes.
- Oversaw preparation of tax effect accounting journals, income tax returns for Australia and reconciliation reports, whilst assisting with co-ordination of income tax returns in off-shore jurisdictions.
- Managed aspects of monthly/annual payroll tax calculations, preparation of monthly BAS and IAS for the group and lodgement with the ATO, along with preparation and lodgement of the annual Australian FBT return.

Key Achievements:

- Improved operational efficiency and tax governance, developed tax processes and systems including streamlining ATO insurance review process, achieved a lower effective tax rate from 31% to 26% and minimised tax risk.
- Set up a Direct (income taxes) and transactional (CRS FATCA and 871m) Tax Risk governance framework reducing risk and moving from a higher risk to lower risk entity on the ATO streamline insurance directives scale.
- Led the first ever implementation of Transfer pricing policies for the group resulting in better tax outcomes and ongoing continuing savings in excess of \$2M.
- Challenged ATO's previous assessment of GIC / SIC by submitting a remission proposal, resulting in \$400K+ refund of interest from the ATO.
- Played a key role in the VAT refund submission of 200K+ GBP (UK HMRC), by assessing VAT current state in the UK, initiating lodgement, engaging relevant advisors and submitting GBP refund assessment.
- Achieved FBT return savings of \$25K, potential savings of 100K+ for an organization with 60 employees, by conducting an in-depth FBT process review.
- Engaged with ATO for CRS AeOI Data remediation for the past 3 years, resulting in a reversal of 80,000+ incorrectly submitted client CRS records. This avoided incorrect data flow to client's local tax authorities.
- Brought to compliance several years of outstanding returns for Cyprus, Singapore and Dubai.
- Worked with business to streamlined and automated W8 and W9 client on-boarding process reducing client on-boarding time by an up to and hour per application.

- Resolved complex Office of State Revenue (OSR) payroll tax dispute, saving over \$70k in additional payroll tax.
- Interpreted and applied tax laws in the context of the broader environment, considering commercial drivers, industry practice, and principles of fairness.
- Ensured timely resolution of complex disputes, utilising highly effective law interpretation methodologies, with a focus on delivering exceptional client experience.

APAC Finance Manager (Group Financial Controller) | Travelport Limited (Contract) March 2019 – September 2019

Travelport is a Langley UK Headquartered Private Equity Owned Travel Software Company making cloud-based Airline booking platforms for travel agencies (Galileo GDS Platforms).

- Assumed role of APAC Tax and Finance Manager and Group Financial Controller for legal entities in 9 APAC region countries including Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore and Taiwan.
- Spearheaded the full function including AP, AR, Rebates, Incentives, Treasury, Direct and Indirect Tax, Finance month end, statutory and internal and external reporting.
- Reported to the Finance Director APAC-MEA and directly managed a team of 5 qualified accountants (4 local and 1 in Japan).
- Managed General Ledger close, Financial and OPEX Management Reporting, and in collaboration with the Finance Compliance Manager, led the direct and indirect Tax and Transfer pricing compliance and reporting across the 13 APAC entities, with a combined revenue of over US\$100m in service charges.

Key Achievements:

- Successfully managed the period close akin to a hard close, in response to Travelport's change in ownership, by following a full hard close procedure from an accounting perspective.
- Implemented IAS16 lease accounting standard, resulting in faster audit close.
- Successfully implemented Oracle Cash Management module leading to faster and more accurate bank reconciliations, ultimately reducing the bank reconciliation process by 2 days.
- Implemented robotic process automation using UI Path to streamline routine month end and analysis data input reports, significantly reducing a week's work for 1 full time employee.

Accounting Lead (Group Financial Controller ANZ) | FMC Australasia Pty Ltd November 2017 to March 2019

FMC is a US listed Agricultural chemical company, supplying crop protection products to the Australian farmers with a Chemical manufacturing plant in NSW.

- Led transactional (P2P), reporting (R2R), controllership, treasury and direct and indirect tax reporting for Australia and New Zealand operations for the NYSE listed Tier 1 Agricultural Technology Company with \$100m in sales.
- Led a team of 3 onshore skilled qualified Accountants, 3 offshore teams (P2P- AP in Manila, GL Kunshan, and R2R Dupont business Cork, Ireland) and 10+ accounting resources.
- Managed the delivery of transactional, consolidations and financial reporting across three different SAP systems and 7 legal entities.
- Managed and delivered the internal controls, external Audit and Group reporting and engagements with Auditors (KPMG) and Tax advisors (EY) with engagement fees of more than \$600K.
- Acted as the local finance lead for the Greenfield SAP implementation project for modernization of the ERP system to S/4 HANA architecture, streamlining and preparing local entity for timely SAP rollout.
- Managed the transactional processing systems offshoring, i.e. AP and Travel and Entertainment systems offshoring to FMC internal Accounts Payable shared services centre in Manila and the recording to reporting systems and process offshoring to FMC centre of Excellence in Cork in Ireland.
- Managed the Acquisition accounting and later Integration of Dupont Agribusiness with the local business.
- Led group tax policy, planning and compliance inclusive of cross border financing and structuring and performed Secretarial duties including company minutes, accounting minutes and updates to ASIC records.

Key Achievements:

- Established a strong financial function from scratch by applying process driven strategies, best practices and knowledge transfer from Shanghai and Philadelphia Centre of Excellence and other more mature finance functions, resulting in alignment of close deadlines with the global timelines.
- Increased compliance and disclosure requirements around tax compliance sharing taxes changes due to introduction of Significant Global Entity Tax Regime with the Executive leadership team.
- Increased payment frequency from monthly to weekly through better control of the AP function and automation of bank reconciliation, significantly improving on-time supplier payment by 75%.
- Achieved 30% savings (\$200k) in audit fees by initiating RFP for advisory and compliance services to Big 4.

- Implemented Increased controls (Sarbanes Oxley SOX) compliance from 7 to 25 of 31 controls, reducing month end close times by 2 days.
- Increased finance team (cross functional team of 10 employees including CEO at 2018 City2Surf) capability, morale, engagement and process ownership through active engagement session and soft activities.
- Built greater transparency and reduced close times from 12+ days close to 4 day close for the seven ledgers by increasing transparency, autonomy and responsibility at the local level.
- Coached, developed and up-skilled the local finance and offshore shared service teams.
- Successfully rolled out US GAAP-ASC 842 /IAS 16 / AASB 16, lease accounting standard for the group ensuring APAC took the lead in the adoption and rollout production.
- Successfully managed the external direct, indirect FBT and R&D tax advisory and transfer pricing compliance process for the group.

Kimberly-Clark Australia

Aug 2011 to Oct 2017

Kimberly-Clark Australia is the Australian subsidiary of the Fortune 500 US listed Kimberly-Clark Global group, with significant manufacturing and distribution assets and sales of over \$1 Billion in Australia.

Tax Reporting and Compliance Manager ANZ (Tax accounting specialist)

Jun2013 – Oct2017

- Solely managed the direct and indirect taxes for the \$1B Sales for the Kimberly Clark Australia group and reported to Tax and Finance Manager with Matrix reporting to US Group tax function.
- Managed the monthly tax accounting, the monthly, quarterly and Annual Income tax, GST, Withholding taxes, FBT, GST, R&D and Thin cap and Transfer pricing engagements.
- Ensured on-time lodgement of all direct and indirect tax obligations (BAS, IAS's , WHT, GST, FBT, WHT, R&D, Thin capitalization, Transfer pricing documentation, and Company tax returns, book to return and monthly full scope Tax accounting close for 72 months/ 6 tax years.
- Managed the FBT return for Kimberly Clark group with 1,000 employee and 150 cars, along with the R&D return with over \$10M eligible R&D spend.
- Liaised closely with PWC tax consultants to ensure smooth lodgements of Income tax and FBT returns and collaborated with Deloitte Auditors for preparation and lodgement of statutory accounts.
- Acted as the backup tax accounting specialist for the region and managed Risk based approach to tax for ANZ.

Key Achievements:

- Achieved \$5M tax savings by revising thin capitalization methodology from Safe Harbor to Arm's Length debt test.
- Reduced FBT savings on tool of trade cars by \$200K per year through log books implementation.
- Trained over 200 business users for appropriate accounting coding of expenses for FBT returns, ensuring use of actual FBT method instead of 50/50 and reducing FTB payable by \$50k.
- Defended the ATO audit with a 0 additional tax liability when company was selected as one of the first 90 countries reviewed for Base Erosion and Profit Shifting under the ATO's International Structuring and Profit Shifting (ISAPS) integrity testing regimes.
- Trained finance teams of 11 APAC countries and 30+ staff (Financial Controllers and Finance and Tax Managers) Tax effect accounting using Global Integrator. This ensuring greater clarity and transparency in the Tax accounting and reporting process for the US group company.

APAC Tax Accounting Specialist (Systems Manager)

Aug 2011 – Jun 2013

- Led and developed group's Tax accounting function for the APAC region, including Tax Accounting and Compliance processes.
- Trained 11 countries and 30+ finance staff (Financial Controllers and Finance and Tax Managers) and ensured tax and finance teams in APAC region used the CCH Global Integrator software for centralized and controlled reporting of tax accounting.
- Maintained high levels of Tax systems control and managed the Tax dashboard.
- Risk managed and coordinated the internal Audit function.
- Cultivated strong professional relationships with auditors and tax advisors, ensuring mutual benefit realisation.
- Acted as a member of the Global Tax Team, collaborating closely with the Global Tax Accounting Manager.
- Implemented risk-based approach to tax and CCH Global Integrator for transparent, assured tax accounting.

KEY PREVIOUS ROLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Oracle Certified Consultant – Tax, Consolidation and EPM systems | James and Monroe

- Upgraded the consolidation systems to HFM for Wesfarmers Group, AMP Group and Infigen Energy (Babcock and Brown wind partners), optimising finance team process efficiency.
- Rolled out enhancement of the management planning system to include new cash forecasting and weekly chargeability application for Worley Parsons and increased application users from 150-200 to almost 800.
- Acted as the onsite EPM administrator and Functional Consultant for Full Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition, for Worley Parsons supporting over 5,000 users, managing Data Load systems FDM, performance reporting systems Hyperion planning and Essbase and consolidation systems (Hyperion HFM 11).

Consultant, Tax Technology (Tax Accounting and Risk Advisory Services) | Ernest & Young

- Acted as the lead technology consultant for Macquarie Banks CCH Integrator installation, successfully migrating Tax helpdesk from Sydney to Melbourne by streamlining/structuring help-desk processes, ultimately reducing client wait times and ensuring faster query resolution.
- Assisted and trained large clients including Commonwealth Bank, Macquarie Bank, ING Bank, Deutsche Bank, ANZ Bank, Toll Holdings, Patrick Logistics, Nine MSN, News limited and PBL, Macquarie Bank Limited and Lion Nathan with tax technical and functional queries, including using CCH Integrator for book to returns and tax lodgements.

Program Manager Technology / Team Leader Technology | IMB Global Services

- Managed a 600 seat call centre hardware and software support with a team of 10 engineers.
- Led hardware infrastructure for Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank in the North region of India, successfully managing a team of 11 engineers, 2,000 servers, printers, computers and IT networking infrastructure.

VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE

Founder Director | FoxG1 (Brain Factor1) Foundation Australia www.foxg1.org.au

Aug 2015 - Present

- Set up a UNSW research scholarship to work on gene therapy cure for FoxG1 syndrome, a profoundly debilitating single gene disorder affecting little children.
- Raised over \$100k, assisted the charity in implementing their Google AdWords, and Salesforce CRM environments, and build community relations.
- Acted as City2Surf Team Leader for FoxG1 Foundation's Team #CureFoxG1, encouraging teams to participate in city2Surf for four consecutive years (2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019).

Board Member / Treasurer | DAMEC www.damec.org.au

Jan 2021 - Present

- Oversee financial administration of the organisation, review procedures and financial reporting, advise the board on financial strategy and fundraising, and put effective systems in place to ensure organization's solvency.

President | GOPIO Sydney

Nov 2021 - Present

- Encourage collaboration and networking amongst the various sub groups within the Indian Diaspora.

Board Member / Director / Treasurer | Western Sydney Community Centre

2019

- Collaborate with the Board to promote social cohesion and community harmony, enhance WSCC's effectiveness and impact by determining group's mission and purpose, setting a strategic vision and plan, and ensuring adequate resources, financial and legal accountability.
- Oversee financial administration of the organisation, review procedures and financial reporting, advise the board on financial strategy and fundraising, and put effective systems in place to ensure organization's solvency.

Federal Candidate for the Federal Elections | Liberal Party of Australia

2019

- Ran Federal Candidate campaign for the Liberal Party House of Representatives during the Federal Election, successfully driving the campaign on a small budget and swinging the vote 5.3% towards the Liberal Party.

Volunteer | Vinnies CEO Sleepout (Fundraising for the Homeless)

2016, 2017, 2019, 2020

- Contributed to over \$12M raised and collaborated with great company CEO's and business leaders.

Ride Participant | Distinguished Gentlemen's (Raising funds for Prostate Cancer and Men's Health)

2019

- Manager of the U7's team (2016 season) and U6's team (2017 Season) | Glenwood Redbacks Soccer
- Volunteer photographer and timekeeper | The Ponds Park Run.