University of Sydney LAWS2014 Corporations Laws

LAWS2014

Exam Scaffold

Lecture 2: Fundraising Fund Raising [Chapter 6] Issuing security Is the company a public or a private company? Is there a 'offer' or 'invitation' for a 'security' If there is a security, it must have a disclosure agreement Failure to comply is a civil penalty provision Disclosure Is there an exemption to disclosure? Has there been a disclosure? ☐ Does the disclosure comply with chapter 6? Consequences for failure to lodge

Chapter 6D requires disclosure whenever a company makes an offer of securities for issue *\$706*, unless the offer falls within one of the exempted categories.

[1] Is it a public (ltd) or a private company (pty ltd)?

- 1) Public: companies are subject to chapter 6 disclosures
- 2) Private: company may issue securities through activities that are exempt from chapter 6 disclosures CA 113(3)

[2] Is there an offer for securities for issue?

[a] Is there an offer or invitation?

Defective Disclosures

☐ New Circumstances

☐ Omission

Defences

☐ Deceptive and Misleading

- 1) Prima facie, if there is an offer for securities, there must be a corresponding disclosure statement *s706* which is provided with the offer *s721* unless an exemption applies.
 - a. An offer of securities is defined in s9 as
 - i. an invitation for applicants for the issue of the security and s9(a)(i)
 - ii. invitation of offers to purchase the security s9(a)(ii)
 - b. It includes distributing material to encourage a person to enter into a course of negotiations calculated to result in the issue of securities *AG v Aus Fixed Trust*.
 - c. Chapter 6D does not apply to crowd sourced funding \$703B

[b] Is it a security? s92(5) and s700

- 1) Securities are defined in s92(5) for the purposes of chapter 6D s700, which include.
 - a. shares *s92(5)(a)*

- b. debentures *s92(5)(b)*
- c. legal or equitible right or interest in shares or debentures 92(5)(c)
- d. an option to acquire, by way of issue, a security covered of the above s92(5)(d)
- 2) Chapter 6D does not recognise the following as securities per s700
 - a. a right (whether existing or future and whether contingent or not) to acquire, by way of issue, the following under a rights issue: s92(5)(e) excluded through s700(1)(a)
 - i. a security covered by paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d);
 - ii. a managed investment product;
 - iii. a foreign passport fund product;
 - iv. an interest or right covered by paragraph 764A(ba); or
 - b. a CGS depository interest; or s92(5)(f) excluded through s700(1)(a)
 - b. a simple corporate bonds depository interest; s92(5)(e) excluded through s700(1)(b)
- f. If it is a stock, bond, or debenture issued by the government then it is not a security for the purpose of this chapter *s92(3)*
- [3] If there is a security on offer, then there must be a disclosure document issued in the content of Ch 6D
- [4] Failure to comply is a civil penalty s727

Exemptions from disclosure s708

Prima facie, [person] must lodge a disclosure document with ASIC *s718* as there is a offer for securities *s706* it must be determined if [person] has satisfied the disclosure requirements.

However, there are exceptions in \$708 which have the effect of not requiring a disclosure document to be lodged.

MUST STATE: The company bears the onus of proving that their offer falls within \$708; Cyclone

Is it a small scale offering? \$708(1)

1) Small scale offerings are exempt from the disclosure requirements set out in chapter 6 if they satisfy certain criteria \$708(1)

[a] It must be a personal offer \$708(2)

- a. Must only be able to be accepted to whom the offer is made. s708(2)(a) or
- b. A offer to a person who is likely to be interested \$708(2)(b) considering
 - i. Previous contact between offeror and offeree,
 - ii. some professional or other connection between the offeror and offeree
 - iii. Statements or actions that indicate they are interested

Lecture 3: Corporate Personality	
	Separate Legal Personality
	☐ Is it a corporate group? If yes state that.
	Can you attribute liability?
	☐ Accessorial Liability?
	□ Statute?
	□ Equitible?
	□ Agency?
	☐ Duty of care in tort?
	Piercing the corporate veil
	☐ Evasion principle

Principle: A company is a separate legal entity from its members (*s 124; Salomon*), and has all the powers of a natural person and powers of a body corporate (e.g., issue shares, debentures) (*s 124(1)*) – from the day of registration (*s 119*)

State the separate legal personality doctrine?

- 1) A company is a separate legal entity from its members *s* 124; Salomon, and has all the powers of a natural person and powers of a body corporate (e.g., issue shares, debentures) *s* 124(1) from the day of registration *s* 119
 - a. A company's property is separate from the property of its members *Macaura*
 - b. A company is separate from its controllers Lee's Air Farming
 - i. You can act as an employee and a director Lee's Air Farming
 - c. The fact a company is properly formed according to the required formalities, and is controlled by one person does not establish agency *Salomon*

[Members]

2) This means that for a company limited by shares, liability is limited to the nominal value of their shares \$516

[Corporate Groups]

- 3) Prima facie, each corporate group, is a separate legal entity Smith Stone and Knight
 - a. However, per *s46* a body corporate can be a subsidiary of another body corporate if;
 - i. The other body controls
 - 1. The composition of the board; or
 - A body corporate controls another's board if it can appoint or remove a majority of its directors. s47
 - 2. Can or does control the casting of more than 50% of the maximum number of votes that might be cast at a general meeting of the first body; or *Blue Bird*