

Tony Symons Managing Director



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Tony is the Founder and Managing Director of the firm and has over 20 years' experience in corporate law, mergers and acquisitions (especially of a cross-border nature) and general commercial law, including four years in Hong Kong working with Linklaters, and before that as a member of Herbert Smith Freehills' M&A team in Melbourne.

During his time with Linklaters, Tony worked extensively throughout Asia and advised on some of Asia's largest and most innovative deals, many of which involved multiple jurisdictions.

Shortly after returning to Melbourne, Tony co-founded the predecessor firm to Clarendon Lawyers, whose clients now include Jacobs Engineering Inc, Genpact Limited, AusNet, Eurofins, K.W. Doggett, Sodexo, Cabcharge Limited, Best Friends Pets, Amari Metals, Endota Spa, Ted's Cameras, Addnode Group AB, Ironman, Healthcare Australia, Fletcher Building, Funtastic Limited, The Mathieson Group, ITW Australia, kikki.K, private equity funds, family office groups, professional service firms and numerous SMEs and their shareholders.

In the 2016 Doyles Guide in Australia, Tony was ranked as a "Leading Lawyer", placing him in the top 9 M&A lawyers in Melbourne. In MergerMarket's 2016 league tables, Tony was ranked 7th by volume of deals.

Tony has gained his extensive experience from a wide range of corporate transactions, including:

- Genpact Limited's (NYSE:G) acquisition of the assets of Fiserv Inc.'s (NASDAQ:FISV) Australian based cheque processing business;
- Jacobs Engineering Group Inc.'s (NYSE:JEC) acquisition of Aquent Consulting from Amec Foster Wheeler;
- the sale of The Cake Syndicate, producer of iconic Susan Day and Big Sister cakes, to the Kin Group;
- advising the founders of Black Mount Natural Springwater on a strategic equity transaction with a private equity group;
- advising Addnode Group AB on the Australian aspects of the acquisition of international software company Service Works Group for up to SEK 194 million;
- acting for the Doggett family in the merger of their leading independent Australian paper distribution business with New Zealand private equity owned BJ Ball Group, and subsequent sell-down of 51% of the combined group to Japan Pulp and Paper for approximately \$75 million;
- the sale of Funtastic International Limited by Funtastic Limited;
- the sale of the Avalon Airport Transfer business to Skybus;
- the sale of the national wholesale car and truck parts business, Australia Truck and Auto Parts Group, and national franchise network of 53 brake, steering and auto repairs specialists to Metcash Limited;
- the merger of Vicwest Community Telco with Bendigo Telco by way of scheme of arrangement;
- the acquisition of RISQ Group, a leader in employment background checks throughout Asia-Pacific, by Sterling Infosystems;
- the sale of the City Mazda automotive dealership by Montague Motor Company to ASX-listed Automotive Holdings Group Limited;

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- the acquisition of luxury chocolatier, Koko Black, by Sapeame (owner of the Grill'd restaurant chain);
- the sale of Guardian Storage to National Storage;
- the sale of Hospital Telecommunications, a hospital patient entertainment and communication service provider, to ASX-listed Hills Limited;
- the sale of RecoveriesCorp to Transaction Capital, a South African public company;
- the acquisition of a strategic interest in Endota Group, a leading day spa and franchise network, by a consortium of investors;
- the acquisition of the Health & Community Care recruitment business by Healthcare Australia from Randstad Holdings B.V.;
- advising private equity group Vita Group on the sale of its Australian, New Zealand and Malaysian polymers businesses;
- advising global workspace solution company Regus Group (LSE:RGU) on its acquisition of the Australian serviced office network operated by Corporate Executive Offices;
- advising Eurofins Scientific Group, a Belgium company listed on NYSE Euronext and the world leader in food, pharma and environmental laboratory testing, in respect of its separate acquisitions of mgt-Labmark, Agrisearch, AMS Laboratories and SCEC;
- advising ASX listed Funtastic Limited in relation to various acquisitions and disposals;
- advising the founders of Best Friends Pets on its restructure and the subsequent sale of a strategic interest to Archer Growth;
- the acquisition of Atlas Specialty Metals, Austral Wright/MICO Metals, Australian Stainless Distribution and Dalsteel;
- the sale of minority interests in kikki.K;
- the sale of AaE Retail by Australian Air Express and subsequent disposal of Australian Air Express and Star Track Express to Qantas and Australia Post, respectively;
- advising Fletcher Building on the acquisition and roll up of various insulation installation businesses;
- the management buy-out of Witchery Fashion led by Gresham Private Equity Limited;
- the sale of DMS Glass to CSR Limited;
- the sale of Ladd Electrical to SJ Australasia, an Advent Capital led roll-up; and
- the sale of Smiggle retail stationery business to Just Group.

Tony holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Melbourne. He is admitted to practice in Victoria and Hong Kong.