

AUSTRALIA

Fraud investigation services

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Sedgwick's specialist forensic accountants have the right expertise to assist clients following a fraud discovery. Our experienced team deliver prompt, professional, thorough, objective and cost-efficient investigations.

Upon discovery of fraud, businesses must move quickly to stem the financial loss as well as potential damage to brand reputation and employee confidence. The days and weeks following a fraud discovery can be stressful and severely affect normal business activities. Our experts are conscious of the sensitivities involved in fraud investigations and work with clients to minimise any adverse impact to operations and the workforce.

The Sedgwick team of specialists in Australia has a unique combination of expertise in fraud and insurance claims, which means we conduct fraud investigations with awareness of insurers' underlying requirements. This includes claims under a business pack, management liability, fidelity, crime, financial institution or bankers bond policy.

Our investigative capabilities

- Employee theft
- Fidelity guarantee
- Computer fraud
- Social engineering fraud
- Forgery
- Payroll fraud
- Client loss
- Identity theft
- Trust account fraud
- Expert witness reports
- Subrogation
- Civil/criminal recovery

According to the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), organisations lose about 5% of revenue each year to fraud.

Our team

Our diverse experience across accounting, insurance and law enforcement means we can provide clients with a wide range of specialist knowledge and expertise. Our breadth of experience allows us to respond promptly and appropriately to the specific fraud identified, providing a tailored investigation based on the evidence.

At Sedgwick, we pride ourselves on providing clients with an objective investigation service, ensuring we report on the factual circumstances of a fraud, as well as quantifying and evidencing the extent of any loss suffered.

Our experience means we can assist with proactive strategies regarding recovery action against the perpetrator of the fraud, as well as reporting to police and relevant statutory bodies. We can assist in all aspects of legal proceedings, including acting as expert witnesses.

Our approach

Independent – A potential conflict of interest arises if a fraud is investigated by the business's regular accountant or auditor. As an independent fraud investigator, we provide objectivity.

Tailored – Our investigations and reports are appropriate to the unique circumstances of the fraud, as well as the specific requirements of the client and their insurer.

Collaborative – We work together with clients and their insurers to facilitate smooth and expeditious claim settlements. We also work with Sedgwick's data analytics team on claims where large data sets are relied upon.

Commercial and cost aware – We consider the value of the loss in context with insurance policy limits and the extent of any potential recovery. We ensure only reasonable and necessary costs are incurred in establishing and evidencing the loss.

Expert – The records we gather and reports we prepare are often relied upon by insureds, insurers and legal advisors for civil and criminal proceedings, and we produce work meeting those high standards of quality.

Industry experience

Fraud does not discriminate; it can happen to any size business in any industry. Our team have experience working with businesses from small and mid-size enterprises (SMEs) to companies listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) and multinational corporations. Our vast experience includes investigations into frauds perpetrated in the hospitality, real estate, retail, health and aged care, manufacturing, banking and construction industries.

Our leadership

Sedgwick's fraud investigation division comprises forensic accountants, business valuation specialists, fraud examiners and analysts. We provide financial investigation, litigation support and valuation services to insurance, legal, corporate and public sector clients.

Case study

Our team worked with a consulting firm that had suspicions their financial controller was inflating expense claims. Upon review, our fraud investigation team identified over \$800,000 in purported supplier and payroll payments, paid to bank accounts under the name of the financial controller, that had gone undetected for seven years.

We collated available evidence that enabled solicitors to obtain caveats over the financial controller's property and prepared a report that resulted in the funds being recovered under the client's insurance policy. It is expected that the civil (and concurrent criminal) action taking place will result in the recovery of the misappropriated funds in their entirety and a custodial sentence.



Emma Levett

B.Comm MForAccy CPA

Partner and head of forensic accounting services, Australia

Emma has over 14 years' experience in investigative accounting in both Australia and the UK.

She specialises in the investigation and quantification of employee (internal) and third party (external) corporate fraud losses.

Her experience includes investigations into fraud losses within SME, corporate and ASX-listed companies, as well as assisting with the resultant civil and criminal proceedings.

Emma has presented on topics including the burden of proof of loss in employee theft claims, assessment of earnings in workers compensation matters and current trends in crime insurance claims.

Sydney

M. +61 457 446 330

E. emma.levett@sedgwick.com



Beth Fieldhouse

BA (Hons) ACA CFE

Senior manager, forensic accounting services, Australia

Beth works with insurers and lawyers across a wide range of industries and circumstances, including business interruption, commercial disputes and litigation and fraud.

She has significant experience in the investigation and quantification of fraud and employee dishonesty losses, as well as measuring economic damages within manufacturing and retail sectors, including stock losses.

Sydney

M. +61 447 673 801

E. beth.fieldhouse@sedgwick.com



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