



SIMMONS RUSSO CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Capability Statement

Audit, Assurance & Forensic Advisory Specialists

Firm Overview

Simmons Russo Chartered Accountants is a South Australian-based boutique assurance and advisory firm specialising in audit, risk, forensic accounting and governance services.

Led by Managing Partner Steven Russo FCA RCA CTA, the firm brings over three decades of senior audit and advisory experience across government, listed entities, not-for-profit organisations and complex private groups.

Simmons Russo is built on a simple premise: deliver technically rigorous, independent assurance with commercial insight and practical outcomes. The firm is regularly engaged in high-stakes, reputation-sensitive matters requiring deep technical capability, sound judgement and clear communication with Boards, Audit Committees and regulators.

Our approach combines:

- Big firm technical capability
- Boutique responsiveness and partner-led delivery
- Deep local knowledge of the South Australian regulatory and commercial environment

Core Service Offerings

Audit & Assurance

- Statutory financial statement audits
- Independent accountant reports
- Internal audit and risk-based assurance programs
- Compliance audits (including AFSL, trust accounts and regulatory frameworks)
- SMSF audit (Registered SMSF Auditor services)
- Special purpose and agreed-upon procedures engagements

Simmons Russo provides assurance services across a wide range of sectors including local and state government, listed entities, multinational subsidiaries, registered clubs, cooperatives and not-for-profits.

Risk Advisory & Governance

- Audit & Risk Committee advisory and support
- Governance framework design and review
- Prudential and probity advisory
- Contract management and procurement reviews
- Regulatory compliance frameworks

The firm has extensive experience working directly with Boards, Ministers, Audit Committees and integrity bodies, delivering independent insights that strengthen accountability and governance outcomes.

Forensic Accounting & Expert Witness Services

- Forensic investigations (civil and criminal matters)
- Fraud and misconduct investigations
- Economic loss and damages quantification
- Litigation support and expert reports
- Expert witness testimony

Steven Russo is a highly experienced expert witness, having provided evidence in the Supreme Court, District Court, Licensing Court and Federal Court, as well as engagements involving ICAC and the Attorney-General's Department.

Strategic & Technical Advisory

- Financial reporting and technical accounting advice (AASB/IFRS)
- Business continuity and risk planning
- Complex transaction and restructuring advisory
- Vulnerable persons and regulatory compliance frameworks
- Government and large-scale contract advisory

Sector Experience

Simmons Russo has deep cross-sector experience, including:

- Government & Public Sector
 - South Australian Government
 - Queensland Government
 - Tasmanian Government
 - Parliament of South Australia
 - Local Government authorities
 - ICAC and Attorney-General engagements
- Corporate & Listed Entities
 - ASX-listed companies
 - Multinational subsidiaries operating in Australia
 - Defence and advanced manufacturing sector (including CFO-level experience)
- Not-for-Profit & Community Sector

- Large NFP organisations
- Registered clubs and associations
- Disability and community service providers
- Financial Services & Superannuation
 - SMSFs and trustee structures
 - Trust and fiduciary environments
 - Compliance-driven assurance engagements

Selected Engagement Experience

Simmons Russo has delivered a range of complex and high-profile engagements, including:

- Major South Australian Government Contract Review
Lead Partner on a contract management review of a high-profile state contract, reporting directly to the Minister for Health, Auditor-General and ICAC.
- National Franchise Audit Program (ASX-listed Entity)
Assisted in developing a Vulnerable Workers Act compliance framework and executing a nationwide audit program across 800+ sites.
- Defence & Advanced Manufacturing Leadership
CFO of a global entity operating within defence and advanced manufacturing, providing strategic financial leadership and governance oversight.
- Forensic & Litigation Engagements
 - Civil and criminal fraud investigations
 - Economic loss quantification
 - Technical accounting disputes
 - Government and regulatory investigations

Leadership & Governance Credentials

Steven Russo holds a number of senior governance roles, including:

- Finance Director and Chair of Audit & Risk Committee – VIVA Mutual
- Finance Director – Club One (SA) Limited
- Director (SA) – Auditors Institute of Australia
- Audit Committee Member – North Adelaide Waste Management Authority
- Audit & Risk Committee Member – Law Society of South Australia

These roles ensure Simmons Russo maintains current, practical insight into governance expectations, regulatory scrutiny and audit committee priorities.

Professional Credentials

- Fellow, Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand (FCA)
- Registered Company Auditor (ASIC)
- Registered SMSF Auditor (ASIC)
- Fellow, Taxation Institute of Australia
- Chartered Taxation Adviser (CTA)
- Registered Tax Agent
- Bachelor of Commerce (University of South Australia)
- Graduate Diploma of Chartered Accounting

Our Point of Difference

Partner-Led Delivery

All engagements are led directly by senior practitioners with deep technical expertise and judgement.

Technical Depth with Commercial Insight

We combine rigorous audit methodology with practical, outcome-focused advice.

Reputation-Sensitive Engagement Expertise

Proven track record in complex matters involving regulators, courts and government stakeholders.

South Australian Focus, National Capability

Strong local presence with experience across national and international engagements.

Independence and Integrity

A values-driven approach underpinning all assurance and advisory work.

Client Outcomes

Our clients engage Simmons Russo to:

- Strengthen governance and oversight
- Navigate regulatory complexity with confidence
- Resolve disputes and forensic matters effectively
- Deliver high-quality, independent assurance
- Support strategic decision-making at Board level

Contact

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Simmons Russo Chartered Accountants

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