

Meeting Highlights

28 AUGUST 2020

1. Register of Interests

The Board noted Agenda Item 1 *Register of Interests*.

2. Proposed revisions to Part 4B of the Code

The Board noted Agenda Item 2 *Proposed revisions to Part 4B of the Code*.

The Board discussed the proposed amendments to APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)*. The Board noted the engagement with the AUASB and the IESBA on the definition of Assurance Engagement and agreed that the definition should remain as it was proposed in the Exposure Draft.

The Board approved the issue of the amending standard *Amendments to Part 4B of APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)*, with an effective date of 1 July 2021.

3. Proposed revisions to the Code for the Role and Mindset of Accountants

The Board noted Agenda Item 3 *Proposed revisions to the Code for the Role and Mindset of Accountants*.

The Board approved the release of the Exposure Draft *Proposed Amendments to APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) to promote the Role and Mindset of the Professional Accountant* for public comment subject to the finalisation of the text by IESBA.

4. International and other activities

The Board noted Agenda Item 4 *International and other activities*

5. Update relating to Insolvency Services

The Board noted Agenda Item 5 *Update relating to Insolvency Services*.

The Board discussed developments in relation to Insolvency Services, including matters relating to revising the *Declaration of Independence, Relevant Relationships, and Indemnities* (the DIRRI) and clarification of business relationships with financiers. These matters will be included on the APESB's Issues Register.

6. COVID-19 Q&A on various services

The Board noted Agenda Item 6 *COVID-19 Q&A on various services*.

The Board discussed the recent issue of a joint publication by the IESBA and APESB relating to the impact of COVID-19 circumstances on taxation and valuation services.

The Board approved, in principle, a draft APESB Technical Staff Q&A for COVID-19 circumstances which cover insolvency and forensic accounting services, in addition to the taxation and valuation services examples covered in the IESBA document.

7. IESBA presentation on Technology

The Board noted Agenda Item 7 *IESBA Presentation on Technology*.

Mr Brian Friedrich, IESBA Board member and Chairman of the IESBA's Technology Working Group (TWG), made a presentation to the Board on the IESBA's project on Technology. The presentation provided a comprehensive summary of the TWG's key findings and recommendations from the group's phase 1 final report.

The Board discussed the recommendations, including whether the existing threat categories in the Code address issues caused by technology such as complexity.

Mr Friedrich welcomed any future opportunities to collaborate with APESB in fact-finding relating to technology developments.

The Board thanked Mr Friedrich for his presentation and insight on technological developments impacting the accounting profession.

8. Proposed submission on the AASB's ED regarding Special Purpose Financial Statement disclosures.

The Board noted Agenda Item 8 *Proposed submission on the AASB's ED 302 regarding Special Purpose Financial Statement disclosures*.

The Board discussed the proposals in the AASB's ED 302 and the potential impact of the proposal on organisations in the non-legislated environment (i.e., partnerships, trusts, and sole traders) and in circumstances where there are no users other than the owners of the entity and its financiers.

The Board was supportive of the draft submission prepared by APESB Technical Staff and will review the final submission for approval out of session.

9. Update on Whistleblowing project

The Board noted Agenda Item 9 *Update on Whistleblowing project*.

The Board discussed the draft Technical Staff examples relating to confidentiality and whistleblowing. The Board will review an updated draft of these case studies at the November 2020 Board Meeting.

At the November meeting, the Board will also consider a review of the confidentiality provisions in all APESB pronouncements, including APES 220 *Taxation Services* (APES 220), in light of the confidentiality protections contained in the *Treasury Laws Amendment (Enhancing Whistleblower Protections) Act 2019*.

10. Update on Audit Standard Setting and Regulations

The Board noted Agenda Item 10 *Update on Audit Standard setting and Regulations*.