

Meeting Highlights

23 FEBRUARY 2023

1. Register of Interests

The Board noted Agenda Item 2 *Register of Interests*.

2. Issues Register

The Board noted Agenda Item 3 *Issues Register 2023*.

The Board discussed the matters on the Issues Register and agreed to close the issue relating to the definition of member in guidance notes and the matter on independence requirements in other jurisdictions for non-assurance services.

A stakeholder noted that Members in Public Practice are experiencing challenges associated with establishing bank accounts that meet the requirements of APES 310 *Client Monies* (APES 310). Technical Staff confirmed that this matter would be considered during the planned review of APES 310 in 2023 and noted that APESB issued an Information Sheet in 2018 to facilitate the opening of Trust Accounts.

3. Proposed revisions to APESB pronouncements for Quality Management

The Board noted Agenda Item 4 *Proposed revisions to APESB pronouncements for Quality Management*.

The Board approved the issue of the following revised pronouncements with effective dates of 1 April 2023:

- APES 315 *Compilation of Financial Information*;
- APES 325 *Risk Management for Firms*;
- APES 345 *Reporting on Prospective Financial Information prepared in connection with a Public Document*;
- APES 350 *Participation by Members in Public Practice in Due Diligence Committees in connection with a Public Document*; and
- APES GN 31 *Professional and Ethical Considerations relating to Low Doc Offering Sign-offs*.

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4. International and other activities

The Board noted Agenda Item 5 *International and other activities*.

The Board noted the release of the Quality of Advice Review final report, which will be considered further at the May 2023 Board Meeting.

The Board noted recent professional conduct issues in professional services and discussed whether the issues are arising due to any deficiencies in the professional standards, a lack of understanding of the professional standards and expected professional behaviour, or a firm's culture. The Board will consider these matters at a future Board Meeting.

5. Proposed compilation of the Code of Ethics

The Board noted Agenda Item 6 *Proposed compilation of the Code of Ethics*.

The Board approved the issue of a new Compiled APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (Compiled Code) to incorporate the recent amending standard *Amendments to the Non-Assurance Services provisions of APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)*.

The Board discussed the impetus for issuing Compiled Codes, noting that the timing needs to reflect APESB work priorities and resource levels, balanced with the need to provide timely and reliable information for users and stakeholders.

6. Update on Sustainability

The Board noted Agenda Item 7 *Update on Sustainability*.

The Board considered the update on sustainability and discussed the developments occurring at both the international and local levels.

The IESBA will be holding a series of roundtables on sustainability. APESB will assist with the roundtable being held on 30 March 2023 in Sydney, Australia. Details on the roundtables are available on the [IESBA website](#).

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APESB and CPA Australia will hold a joint event where a distinguished panel will discuss how global developments in ethics (including independence) and assurance standards will impact the rapidly evolving sustainability reporting landscape. The event will be held in Sydney on the evening of 30 March 2023. Click [here](#) for further information and registration details.

7. Proposed revisions to APES 110 for Engagement Team – Group Audits Independence

The Board noted Agenda Item 8 *Proposed revisions to APES 110 for Engagement Team-Group Audits*.

The Board considered the draft exposure draft, based on the IESBA's proposed standard, which revises the Code of Ethics for the definition of engagement team and group audits. The Board noted that the IESBA's standard will only be released once approval has been received from the Public Interest Oversight Board (PIOB).

The proposed definition of engagement team in the Australian exposure draft has been amended to reflect the requirements in Australian auditing and assurance standards. The exposure draft also proposes retaining the term engagement team in Part 3 of the Code to ensure consistency with APESB's other pronouncements, particularly APES 320 *Quality Management for Firms that provide Non-Assurance Services*.

Subject to the PIOB approval of the IESBA standard, the Board approved the issue of the Exposure Draft *Proposed Revisions to APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) Relating to the Definition of Engagement Team and Group Audits* for public comment.

8. Update on IESBA Tax planning and related services project

The Board noted Agenda Item 9 *Update on IESBA Tax planning and related services project*.

The Board noted the update on the IESBA's Project on Tax Planning and Related Services, and agreed that APESB will hold a roundtable in April 2023 to engage with Australian stakeholders on the proposals in the IESBA's exposure draft.