

Technical Alert

23 June 2023

APESB issues revised APES 215 *Forensic Accounting Services*

Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board Limited (APESB) has today released the revised APES 215 *Forensic Accounting Services* (APES 215). This standard replaces the existing APES 215 (issued July 2019).

The key changes to APES 215 consist of the following:

- amendments to the definition of Lay Witness Service, and examples in Appendix 3, to clarify that a Lay Witness Service does not require a Member's specialised knowledge derived from training, study or experience;
- amendments to the definition of Other Evidence, and relevant examples in Appendix 3, to remove references to 'summary' to prevent any confusion with a summary that is presented under Section 50 of the *Evidence Act 1995*;
- a new requirement in paragraph 3.14 for a Member to perform a service as an Expert Witness Service if the Member's Report to communicate evidence refers to the Member's specialised knowledge and/or training, study or experience;
- amendments to the requirement in paragraph 4.2 for Members in Public Practice to incorporate a reference to Section 300 *Applying the Conceptual Framework – Members in Public Practice* of APES 110;
- the addition of a new paragraph 4.3 for Members in Business to remind Members in Business to comply with Section 200 *Applying the Conceptual Framework – Members in Business* and Section 220 *Preparation and Presentation of Information* of APES 110;
- quality management-related conforming amendments to paragraphs 1.1, 7.1 and 7.2; and
- amendments to Appendix 1 to better differentiate between observed and scientific facts.

The revised APES 215 will be effective from **1 October 2023**, and early adoption is permitted. Stakeholders can access the new standard and accompanying Basis for Conclusions on the APESB website www.apesb.org.au.

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