

# Meeting Highlights

3 SEPTEMBER 2024

## 1. Register of Interests

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

## 2. International and other activities

The Board noted Agenda Item 3 *International and other activities*.

The Board acknowledged the speech delivered by the APESB CEO, Mr Channa Wijesinghe, at the Pacioli Society dinner event organised by the University of Sydney on 22 August 2024. The speech is now available on [APESB's website](#).

## 3. Update on APES 230 Financial Planning Services

The Board noted Agenda Item 4 *Update on APES 230 Financial Planning Services* (APES 230).

The Board noted the current legislative reforms in the financial planning industry and agreed that no changes are required to APES 230 at this point in time.

The Board approved the closure of the superseded Consultation Paper 01/19: *Review of APES 230 Financial Planning Services*.

## 4. Update on Sustainability

The Board noted Agenda Item 5 *Update on Sustainability*.

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

The Board discussed the IESBA sustainability-related projects. The Board was informed that to address global stakeholder feedback on their exposure draft, the IESBA's Sustainability Taskforce is considering revisions to the draft pronouncement to provide clarity and to narrow the scope of the value chain entities subject to the independence requirements of the proposed new Part 5 of the IESBA Code.

## 5. Sustainability presentation

The Board noted Agenda Item 6 *Sustainability presentation*.

The Board received a presentation from Mr Terence Jeyaretnam, EY Partner and Mr Matt Honey, EY Partner, on the status of Australian Sustainability Reporting Requirements. The presentation covered topics such as climate reporting criteria and thresholds, components of sustainability reports, the assurance pathway, and core content disclosure requirements. The presentation slides are available on [APESB's website](#).

## 6. APESB guidance on prohibitions in APES 110 for audit engagements

The Board noted Agenda Item 7 *APESB guidance on prohibitions in APES 110 for audit engagements*.

The Board determined to issue an updated APESB guidance document on prohibitions in APES 110 following the release of the new Compiled Code in the fourth quarter of 2024.

A stakeholder queried whether the Independence Guide will also be updated to reflect the updated prohibitions in APES 110 and the recent amending standards. The Board noted that the Independence Guide was a joint project with the professional bodies and, therefore, have determined to discuss this request with the professional bodies.

## 7. Post-implementation review of APES 320 *Quality Management for Firms that provide Non-Assurance Services*

The Board noted Agenda Item 8, *Post-implementation review of APES 320 Quality Management for Firms that provide Non-Assurance Services (APES 320)*.

The Board agreed to the deferral of the post-implementation review of APES 320 at the request of the professional accounting bodies.

## 8. Proposed compilation of APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)*

The Board noted Agenda Item 9 *Proposed compilation of APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)*.

The Board approved the issue of the *Compiled APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (June 2024). The new compiled Code will be effective from 1 January 2025 and will be released in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024.

## 9. Update on Parliamentary Inquiries relating to the accounting profession

The Board noted Agenda Item 10 *Update on Parliamentary Inquiries relating to the accounting profession*.

The Board received an update on the IESBA's Firm Culture and Governance project, including the Working Group's outreach activities and the eight broad themes identified from stakeholder input.

## 10. Proposed revisions to APESB pronouncements for Code Conforming Amendments – Proposed ED 04/24

The Board noted Agenda Item 11 *Proposed revisions to APESB pronouncements for Code Conforming Amendments – Proposed ED 04/24*.

The Board considered a draft Exposure Draft, which proposes revisions to:

- APES 345 *Reporting on Prospective Financial Information Prepared in connection with a Public Document* (APES 345);
- APES 350 *Participation by Members in Public Practice in Due Diligence Committees in connection with a Public Document* (APES 350); and
- APES GN 31 *Professional and Ethical Considerations relating to Low Doc Offering Sign-offs* (APES GN 31).

The exposure draft will seek respondents' specific comments and feedback on the retention of the term 'Listed Entity' in these three APESB pronouncements.

The Board approved the issue of the Exposure Draft *Revision of APESB pronouncements* with a comment period of 45 days.

## 11. Proposed revised APESB pronouncements for Code Conforming Amendments – Due process ED 01/24

The Board noted Agenda Item 12 *Proposed revised APESB pronouncements for Code Conforming Amendments – Due process ED 01/24*.

The Board approved the issue of the revised:

- APES 210 *Conformity with Auditing and Assurance Standards*;
- APES 215 *Forensic Accounting Services*;
- APES 225 *Valuation Services*;
- APES 305 *Terms of Engagement*; and
- APES GN 20 *Scope and Extent of Work for Valuation Services*.

## 12. Proposed revised APES 310 *Client Monies*

The Board noted Agenda Item 13 *Proposed revised APES 310 Client Monies*.

The Board considered the proposed revisions and discussed the concern raised by some respondents about the requirement in paragraph 7.3 for Members in Public Practice to have a Limited Assurance Engagement performed when they act as co-signatories on transactions in a Client Bank Account. The Board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of this requirement, the risks involved and the reliance of those charged with governance of the entity due to the involvement of the Member in public practice. The Board determined that it was in the public interest that the extant requirement be maintained.

The Board approved the issue of the revised APES 310 *Client Monies* with an effective date of 1 April 2025.

## 13. APESB draft submission to TPB consultation on the draft guidance

The Board noted Agenda Item 14 *APESB draft submission to TPB consultation on draft guidance*.

The Board discussed the update on the key changes to the *Tax Agent Services Act 2009* and the new TPB Code obligations for tax practitioners.

The Board was supportive of APESB's Submission to the TPB and noted that the closing date for the consultations on TPB draft guidance TPB(I) D54/2024 and TPB(I) D55/2024 have been extended to 24 September 2024. The Board agreed to update the submission for the outcome and the impact, if any, of the disallowance motion against the *Tax Agent Services (Code of Professional Conduct) Determination 2024* on 10 September 2024.