

## Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board Limited (APESB)

### Highlights of the meeting held on 12 February 2008

1. The Board considered responses to the exposure draft of *ED 06/07 Proposed Amendments to Auditor Independence Requirements* and agreed to the finalisation and release of these amendments to APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* in line with the Corporations Act amendments enacted in June 2007 by the Simplified Regulatory System (SRS) legislation. These amendments are to take effect from 15 February 2008.
2. The Board considered a proposed protocol to issue a compiled APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* which is similar to the protocol used by the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB) when amendments are made to existing auditing standards. The secretariat will prepare a proposed version for review at the May 2008 meeting.
3. The Board agreed to the establishment of a taskforce to consider the revision of Miscellaneous Professional Statement APS 7 *Statement of Insolvency Standards*.
4. The Board considered a proposal to establish a taskforce to develop a professional standard on risk management. The secretariat will perform further research on this topic and report back to the Board at the May 2008 meeting.
5. The Board considered a re-draft of *ED 0X/08 Compilation of Financial Reports* and determined as a matter of priority to consider further re-drafting ahead of the planned out-of-session release of an exposure draft.
6. Given that APS 8 *Statement of Management Consulting Services Standards* does not specifically address management consulting related issues, with the majority of the standard being of a general nature which is already addressed in APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*, the Board in principle supported a proposal to withdraw Miscellaneous Professional Statement APS 8. The secretariat will publish a notice on its website of the Board's intention to withdraw the standard and invite public comment.

7. The Board considered a discussion paper on the definition of professional services. At present there is uncertainty about what services are included within the current definition and as a consequence who is considered a member in public practice. Whilst cognisant of the problems with the current definition the Board agreed not to alter the definition. The secretariat will write to the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) outlining their concerns with the current definition.
8. The Board agreed to the establishment of a taskforce to consider the revision of Joint Guidance Note GN 1 *Members in Business Guidance Statement*.
9. The Board noted the submission on ISQC 1 *Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements*. A copy of the submission is available from the website at <http://www.apesb.org.au/Document/Reports/APESB%20Submission%20on%20ED%20ISQC%201%20Final.pdf>
10. The Board noted the completion of the Issues Register which is also available from the website at <http://www.apesb.org.au/standards.php?id=17>