

ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONAL & ETHICAL STANDARDS BOARD LIMITED

5th Meeting of the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants Taskforce

DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting held on 9 October 2009

3.00 pm – 4.15 pm

1. Present and Apologies

Present:

Mr. Channa Wijesinghe (Chairperson), Mr. Clark Anstis, Mr. David Balcombe, Ms. Dianne Azoor-Hughes, Mr. Paul Meredith, Mr. Richard Mifsud, Ms. Rachel Portelli, Ms. Marisa Orbea, Ms. Tiina-Liisa Sexton, Mr. Keith Reilly.

In Attendance:

Mr. Jack Flanagan (Board Member), Mr. Erik Hopp.

Apologies:

Mr. Michael Nugent.

2. Review of minutes

The minutes of the taskforce meeting held on 14th September 2009 were approved with minor amendments.

3. Definitions

- The taskforce discussed the definition of public interest entity and were of the view that adoption of the definition in the Australian context would be one of the more substantive issues that could be highlighted for discussion at the Exposure Draft stage. Taskforce members acknowledged that the first part of the definition, which addresses listed entities, was uncontroversial and that their concerns were in relation to the second part of the definition concerning other entities that may be regarded as public interest entities. Members expressed differing views as to the types of entities that should be regarded as public interest entities. One view was that the obligation for deciding should be on Members applying the Code and this would avoid the need to make changes to the IESBA wording. Another view was that the definition required careful consideration to ensure it could be consistently applied in the Australian context.
- It was agreed that Channa would discuss this matter further with AASB staff to ascertain the current status of developments in relation to the AASB's differential reporting project which was dealing with a similar issue.

4. Review of Part B of the Code (sections 290 and 291)

- A concern was raised about the level of duplication between numerous paragraphs in sections 290 and 291 which could lead to confusion in the practical application. Some taskforce members were of the view that no changes should be made to the IESBA wording and/or requirements. Other taskforce members were of the view that the Code needs to be evaluated in the Australian context and changes can be made to suit the local environment. For example, changes could be made by the APESB if there was a conflict with legislation such as the *Corporations Act 2001*.

5. Close of meeting

The next meeting of the taskforce will be convened by teleconference on a date to be determined.