

19 March 2026

The Honourable Peter Garling RFD, SC, announced as new APESB Chair

The Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board (APESB) is pleased to announce the appointment of its new Chair, the Honourable Peter Garling RFD, SC, a former Senior Judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

The Board believes that former Justice Garling's extensive legal career, governance experience and knowledge of ethics will be an invaluable asset to the APESB. The Board also noted that his ability to navigate complex issues, together with his experience working with diverse stakeholders, makes him the ideal candidate to lead the APESB.

During his 46-year legal career, Peter Garling specialised in professional negligence, commercial and insurance law, and administrative law. He served as a Judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, sitting in both the civil and criminal jurisdictions, from 2010 until his retirement earlier this month.

As a Senior Counsel, Peter Garling has appeared extensively in Royal Commissions and Public Inquiries, including those into the 1997 Thredbo landslide, the Glenbrook and Waterfall railway accidents, the collapse of HIH Insurance, and the affairs of the Medical Research and Compensation Foundation. He was also the Commissioner who conducted the Special Commission of Inquiry into Acute Care Services in NSW Public Hospitals.

Peter Garling has held a range of governance roles during his career, including as Chair of numerous education institutions and committees associated with the Court. Peter was a member of the NSW Bar Council, appeared in legal professional disciplinary matters, and served on one of the Bar's Professional Conduct Committees.

He is looking forward to contributing to APESB's work in the accounting profession as the Board navigates the complexities and challenges created by geopolitical tensions, sustainability and AI.

"I have always taken a keen interest in the accounting profession and its Code of Ethics, and I look forward to working with my fellow Directors and management as we continue to set exemplary standards of professionalism and ethical behaviour across the profession," the Honourable Peter Garling said.

Peter also paid tribute to his predecessor, Nancy Milne OAM, noting that her leadership, professionalism and dedication during her tenure strengthened the APESB's stature and reputation as a standard-setter in Australia and internationally.

"I am honoured and privileged to lead the Board, following the example set by my distinguished predecessors, to continue APESB's vital work in the public interest," he said.

The Honourable Peter Garling's appointment is effective 27 March 2026.

APESB's current Chairman, Nancy Milne OAM, will conclude her tenure on 26 March 2026, after more than seven years of dedicated service. The Board acknowledges and commends Ms Milne for her strong leadership in driving the development and successful execution of APESB's 2021–2025 Strategy. Under her stewardship, APESB has continued to uphold Australia's global leadership in accounting ethical standards, with significant progress in emerging areas such as sustainability and technology.

Ms Milne's guidance has been particularly valued during a period marked by increased parliamentary scrutiny of the accounting profession. Her contributions leave an outstanding legacy for APESB and the broader profession.

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Notes to Editors:

APESB is the national standard-setter responsible for developing the Code of Ethics and professional standards that members of Australia's three major professional accounting bodies – CPA Australia, Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, and the Institute of Public Accountants – are required to follow.