



Welcome to *Professionalism*

Issue 31

In this issue we provide updates on our activities and technical projects for July - September 2021

APESB proposes reissue of APES 320 as Quality Management for Firms that provide Non-Assurance Services

APESB is proposing to reissue APES 320 *Quality Control for Firms* as a specific quality management standard applicable to non-assurance practices of firms. The revisions will, at a high-level, align with the components of the Australian quality management standards, issued by the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB) in March 2021.

Relevant extant APES 320 requirements will be maintained to minimise disruption, so firms that provide

non-assurance services can continue to use existing policies and procedures with minimal changes.

The Board anticipates the proposed amendments will take effect from 1 January 2023, with early adoption permitted. APESB is seeking feedback on these proposals, with any comments to be provided by **26 November 2021**.

Read the [Exposure Draft](#)

Read the [Media Release](#)

Read the [Mapping Table](#)

APESB will be holding a webinar on the proposed reissue of APES 320. Please see below for more information and registration details.

APESB Webinar on APES 320 ED

On 8 November 2021, APESB will host a webinar on APESB's proposed reissue of APES 320 as *Quality Management for Firms that provide Non-Assurance Services*.

The webinar will explore the Australian and international quality management landscape, the proposed changes including aspects of extant APES 320 that will be maintained, proposed inclusions, considerations for small to medium practices and the interaction between APES 320 and APES 325 *Risk Management for Firms*. There will also be the opportunity for attendees to share their views and thoughts on the proposals during the session.

APESB encourages accountants in public practice, firms and other interested parties to attend this webinar.

[Click here to register](#)

APESB proposes revisions to Insolvency Services to address small business restructuring reforms

APESB is proposing to revise APES 330 *Insolvency Services* to address the Federal Government's insolvency reforms to assist small businesses.

The insolvency reforms are designed to enable small businesses that are (or are likely to become) insolvent to arrive at an agreement with creditors to restructure their businesses.

APESB is seeking feedback on these proposals, with any comments to be provided by **27 October 2021**. In particular, APESB invites comments from small and medium-sized firms.

Read the [Technical Alert](#)

Read the [Exposure Draft](#)

APESB Technical Updates

APESB held a quarterly board meeting on 6 September 2021. In addition to the consideration of the exposure drafts on insolvency and quality management mentioned above, the board also considered updates on the following APESB projects:

- Proposed revisions to APES 110 for Objectivity of Engagement Quality Reviewers
- Project update on APES 230 *Financial Planning Services*
- Project update on APES 215 *Forensic Accounting Services*
- Project update: Benchmarking on Non-Assurance Services
- Project update: Technology Project

You can read the highlights of the September 2021 board meeting [here](#).

APESB Submissions

Quality Management-Related Conforming Amendments to the Code

In early October, APESB made a submission to the International Ethical Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) on proposed conforming amendments to the IESBA Code arising from the finalisation of the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board's (IAASB) Quality Management Standards. APESB supports the proposed amendments and recommended the IESBA consider additional conforming amendments in the long association sections of the Code.

We encourage you to read APESB's [submission](#) on our website.



International Developments

IESBA appoints new Chair

The IESBA have announced the appointment of Ms. Gabriela Figueiredo Dias as the new Chairwoman of the IESBA from January 1, 2022. Ms. Figueiredo Dias has extensive experience in international standard setting, legal and regulatory structure and governance, and academia and is currently the President of the CMVM (Portuguese Securities Market Commission). Ms. Figueiredo Dias will succeed Dr. Stavros Thomadakis, who has led the IESBA since 2015.

Refer to the IESBA's [media release](#) for further details.



IESBA - Emerging Issues and Outreach Committee Update

IESBA's Emerging Issues and Outreach Committee (EOIC) presented at the September 2021 IESBA board meeting on the research and information gathering they are undertaking on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG).

Topics included:

- Scope of ESG issues;
- The rapidly changing landscape: relevant regulatory developments, developments by firms and PAOs, reporting on ESG matters and providing assurance on ESG disclosure;
- Role of the profession;
- Potential ethics and independence issues; and
- Next steps for IESBA consideration.

For more information on IESBA's research on ESG, follow this [link](#).

IFAC - Webinar on Sustainability

IFAC hosted their third annual Climate Week NYC event: Plugging the Net-Zero Information Gap on 29 September 2021.

This event considered the climate information gap between business and investors and the role of accountants in addressing the gap.

Read about the webinar [here](#).

View the recording [here](#).

Ethical Leadership in the Digital Age

IFAC has teamed up with the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland to examine ethics in an era of complexity and digital change. This publication *Complexity and the professional accountant: Practical guidance for ethical decision-making* is the first of four thought leadership pieces that build on a collaborative exploratory paper and global round-table event entitled *Ethical Leadership in an Era of Complexity and Digital Change*.

The publication is available to read [here](#).

The exploratory paper, a summary of the event, and an on-demand recording are available [here](#).



APESB Presentations

Webinar - 10 Questions with the APESB

On 29 September 2021, APESB Director, Craig Farrow and CEO, Channa Wijesinghe presented at a CPA Australia Webinar on current APESB projects and how APESB interacts with IESBA.

Included in this discussion:

- APESB's 2021-25 strategic plan;
- the upsurge of technological investment and its ethical ramifications;
- proposed restrictions relating to the non-assurance service provisions of the Code;

- proposed changes to the fee-related provisions of the Code;
- key matters and ethical obligations in relation to ESG;
- the impact of the AUASB's new standards on quality management systems on APES 320 *Quality Control for Firms*;
- the current status of the APES 230 Financial Planning Services project; and
- IESBA's most recent projects and their impact on Australian standards.

CPA Australia's Ethics and Professional Standards Centre of Excellence

APESB's CEO, Channa Wijesinghe presented to CPA Australia's Ethics and Professional Standards Centre of Excellence on 22 July 2021. The presentation covered the current APESB Strategic Plan, PJC Inquiry into Regulation of Auditing in Australia and an overview of current APESB projects.

Read the presentation [here](#).



APESB 15-Year Anniversary Event Highlights Summary

APESB has produced a high-level summary of the 15-Year Anniversary Online Event, which was held on 21 May 2021. This summary covers the panel discussion's key themes, which addressed *Business Ethics, the pace of digitalisation and the accountants' role in a post-Covid environment*.

The summary is now available via the [APESB website](#).

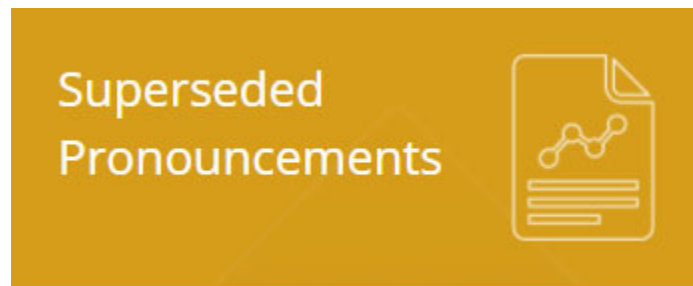
APESB also recorded the online event for those who were unable to attend at the time. You can find this recording on the [events page](#) of the APESB website.

International News

IESBA Board Meetings

View the Board meeting papers and recordings of the recent IESBA meeting: [13 - 27 September 2021](#).

The next IESBA Board Meeting will be held via a series of video conferences between 30 November and 16 December 2021.



Did you know that all APESB's superseded pronouncements are available on the APESB [website](#).

Either click the yellow button on the home [page](#) or find them on the Standards & Guidance [page](#).

[Register to attend the next APESB Meeting](#)

26 November 2021
(Zoom meeting)



APESB is governed by an independent board of directors whose primary objective is to develop and issue, in the public interest, high-quality professional and ethical pronouncements. These pronouncements apply to the membership of the three major Australian professional accounting bodies (CPA Australia, CA ANZ and the IPA).

You have received this eNewsletter because you registered to receive APESB updates from the APESB website. Please click on the link below if you wish to unsubscribe.

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)