

6 June 2023

### APESB statement on the PwC matter

All Australian accountants, including those who provide tax services, are required to abide by the APESB's Code of Ethics ([APES 110](#)) and professional and ethical standards applicable to [Tax Services](#). These standards set the requirements for integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour, which are the five fundamental principles of the Code. In addition, the Code requires accountants to address conflicts of interest to provide clients and the community with confidence in an accountant's professional conduct.

The Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board (APESB) is the independent standard-setting Board that develops, in the public interest, high-quality professional and ethical standards for the Australian accounting profession. APESB's [professional and ethical standards](#) are publicly available, and all accountants should know their obligations to comply with these standards. The Code also requires accountants who become aware of a breach to take action to address the breach. However, like other standards setters of the accounting profession, APESB has no role in monitoring and enforcing its standards.

Based on an open letter issued by PwC Australia and information made publicly available by the Australian Tax Practitioners Board (TPB), a breach of ethical standards has occurred. From what we can ascertain from the publicly available information, APESB has not identified any shortcomings of its professional and ethical standards. APESB will monitor and continue to assess the impact of this matter on its standards as information becomes available.

Any breach of ethical standards by accountants who are members of the professional bodies is a matter for the professional bodies or a relevant regulatory body to investigate and take action according to their findings.

In relation to recent taxation practices at PwC, we understand that the matters are being investigated by CA ANZ's Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) (as set out in [CA ANZ's media release](#)), the TPB and a Senate inquiry in the Australian Parliament.

APESB has also made a submission to the Senate inquiry into the management and assurance of integrity by consulting services on the importance of ethical standards for the accounting profession. The submission is available on APESB's [website](#).

#### APESB director Damien Moore

APESB's Non-Executive Director, Damien Moore, was appointed in his personal capacity to the Board in November 2022 following his nomination by the Institute of Public Accountants (IPA).

Mr Moore is a past President of the IPA and was a director on the IPA Board for 12 years. He was formerly the Chief Executive Officer of Scope Business Advisors. In March 2021, Mr Moore joined the PwC Adelaide office as a Director and was not an employee of PwC prior to that date.

Mr Moore has confirmed to the APESB that he has no involvement with the historical tax work performed by PwC that predates his appointment, which is now part of the Federal Government's inquiry.

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#### Media enquiries:

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