

## **APPOINTMENT TO TASKFORCES OF ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONAL & ETHICAL STANDARDS BOARD LIMITED**

### **GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS**

Invitations are now open for membership of the APESB Sustainability Taskforce.

A Taskforce is a temporary working group established by the Board of Directors of Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board Limited (APESB) to assist in developing or reviewing new or existing standards where high-level development or where industry specific expertise is required.

A Taskforce is disbanded once its goal has been achieved. Each Taskforce will have terms of reference with the overall objective to:

- (1) provide the secretariat with expert and authoritative advice in the development and review of professional and ethical standards in a specific area of expertise;
- (2) oversee the development and review of professional and ethical standards in a specific area of expertise in accordance with due process and working procedures;
- (3) establish links with key stakeholders in order to incorporate the latest developments in the specific area of expertise; and
- (4) advise the secretariat on the implementation of the pronouncement.

#### **About APESB**

APESB is an independent entity with the primary purpose of developing, issuing, and maintaining high-quality professional and ethical pronouncements for the Australian accounting profession in an independent manner with a public interest focus. APESB's pronouncements apply to the members of the three major Australian professional accounting bodies; Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ), CPA Australia and the Institute of Public Accountants (IPA).

The primary objectives of APESB are twofold. Firstly, to develop and issue in the public interest, professional and ethical standards that will apply to accounting professional body membership. Secondly, to provide a formal and rigorous forum for considering, promulgating and approving professional and ethical standards in an open, timely, independent and proactive manner.

APESB is governed by a board of seven directors comprising an independent chairman and six non-executive Board members. A Melbourne based secretariat supports the work of APESB.

#### **About the Sustainability Taskforce**

The APESB Sustainability Task Force is being established to provide APESB with information and knowledge on sustainability-related matters.

In 2023, the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) released two IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards: [IFRS S1 General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information](#) and [IFRS S2 Climate-related Disclosures](#). These standards establish reporting obligations on sustainability-related information.

Currently, the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) is developing a standard on the obligations relating to the provision of assurance on sustainability information (i.e., proposed [International Standard on Sustainability Assurance \(ISSA\) 5000 General Requirements for Sustainability Assurance Engagements](#)). The final standard is expected to be issued towards the end of 2024.

In 2023, the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) determined to develop ethics and independence standards to underpin the reporting and assurance of sustainability information.

IESBA have commenced two sustainability-related projects:

- Sustainability

The IESBA is considering two separate workstreams in this project, which focus on the ethics and independence aspects for sustainability.

In January 2024, the IESBA released an [exposure draft: \(International Ethics Standards for Sustainability Assurance\)](#), which proposes a clear framework of expected behaviours and ethics provisions for use by all sustainability assurance practitioners regardless of their professional backgrounds, as well as professional accountants involved in sustainability reporting. The comment period for this ED closed on 10 May 2024, with the final standard expected to be approved in December 2024.

- Use of Experts

This project focuses on the use of external experts (including sustainability experts) by professional accountants. Further details on this project are available on the IESBA website: <https://www.ethicsboard.org/consultations-projects/use-experts>.

In January 2024, the IESBA released an [exposure draft \(Using the Work of an External Expert\)](#). The ED proposes an ethical framework to guide professional accountants, or sustainability assurance practitioners, in evaluating whether an external expert has the necessary competence, capabilities and objectivity in order to use that expert's work for the intended purposes. The proposals also include provisions to aid in applying the Code's conceptual framework when using the work of an external expert. The comment period for this ED closed on 30 April 2024, with the final standard expected to be approved in December 2024.

The APESB Sustainability Taskforce will consider the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) pronouncements on sustainability and determine how these professional and ethical standards can be applied in Australia taking into consideration the Australian Reporting and Assurance Frameworks.

## Framework for Appointment

<i>Composition</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Representation will be invited from individuals with demonstrated interest and experience in the subject area and members of the three professional accounting bodies</li><li>• The APESB Chief Executive Officer (CEO) acts as chairman</li><li>• An APESB Director acts as an observer</li></ul>
<i>Criteria for Appointment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recognition of the importance of standard setting and the need for leadership thinking</li><li>• An understanding of the role and function of APESB</li><li>• Ability to consider issues at a detailed technical level</li><li>• Relevant professional experience</li><li>• Capacity to make the required time commitment</li><li>• Appreciation of public interest perspective in standard setting</li><li>• Access to relevant technical support</li></ul>
<i>Appointment Process</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A call for applications will be placed on the APESB website and in APESB's e-newsletter</li><li>• The APESB CEO will make an initial assessment of potential candidates based on the applications received and identify a short list of candidates</li><li>• The APESB CEO will discuss potential appointments with the relevant APESB Director and interview candidates if required</li><li>• APESB will appoint successful candidate/s and provide an induction</li></ul>
<i>Out-of-Pocket Expenses</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All travel and associated out-of-pocket expenses incurred by a Taskforce member will be reimbursed in line with the APESB Travel and Accommodation Policy</li></ul>

### Further Information

Further information about APESB is available from the website [www.apesb.org.au](http://www.apesb.org.au)

The following documents are available from the website: [www.apesb.org.au](http://www.apesb.org.au)

- (1) Taskforce Terms of Reference
- (2) Due process and working procedures for the development and review of APESB pronouncements
- (3) Curriculum Vitae Summary Form

## CURRICULUM VITAE SUMMARY FORM

Please complete the following information and email to APESB CEO, Channa Wijesinghe, at  
[channa.wijesinghe@apesb.org.au](mailto:channa.wijesinghe@apesb.org.au) by **30 June 2024**

Title	First Name	
Surname		
APESB's preferred method of communication is via email. The bulk of all correspondence is circulated electronically.		
Email Address 1:		
Email Address 2:		
Contact Address (should be a physical address and not a PO Box for the delivery of any couriered documents)		
Suburb	State	Postcode
Contact Telephone Numbers		
Business 1:		
Business 2:		
Mobile:		
Demonstrated interest in the Taskforce (limit 500 words)		
Demonstrated relevant experience (limit 500 words)		
Please attach a curriculum vitae of no more than 4 pages with your application.		

**Signature** .....

**Date** .....