

## AGENDA PAPER

**Item Number:** 4  
**Date of Meeting:** 26 March 2026  
**Subject:** International and Other Activities

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Action required     For discussion     For noting     For information

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### Purpose

To provide an update to the Board on the following:

- The IESBA Board meetings and other activities.
- International and other developments of interest; and
- APESB presentations, submissions and other activities.

### International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA)

#### IESBA Board Meetings

The IESBA held an in-person [Board Meeting](#) in New York, USA, from 8 to 12 December 2025. The meeting included the following agenda items:

- Strategies & Work Plans 2028-2031 (SWPs);
- Firm Culture and Governance (FCG);
- IESSA Implementation Monitoring Advisory Group (IIMAG);
- Collective Investment Vehicles (CIVs) and Pension Funds;
- IESBA SMART Strategy;
- Technology;
- Role of Chief Financial Officers (CFOs);
- Adoption & Implementation (A&I) Working Group; and
- Emerging Issues and Outreach Committee (EIOC).

Key decisions made and outcomes of the meeting include:

- The IESBA and IAASB's joint stakeholder survey was approved as the initial step in developing consultation papers for their SWPs for 2028-2031. The Boards will consider the survey responses and first drafts of SWP Consultation Papers in September 2026.
- The IESBA accepted a package of documents for further stakeholder engagement in Q1-Q2 2026 in developing its FCG framework. Refer to Agenda Item 5 of this Board meeting for further updates on the IESBA's FCG project.

- The IESBA considered the proposed actions to address matters raised by IIMAG members, including the A&I Working Group, to work closely with IIMAG to establish priorities for additional implementation support for the IESSA.
- The IESBA approved the Project Team’s final report on auditor independence for audits to CIVs and pension funds and agreed to develop a non-authoritative material (NAM) to provide further clarity and guidance on its application of the conceptual framework.
- The IESBA expressed strong support for the proposed SMART Framework as an operational tool aligned with the Public Interest Oversight Board (PIOB) Framework. It also supported conducting a staff workshop in early 2026 and piloting the approach.
- Emerging technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI), are transforming the audit, assurance and ethics landscape. The IESBA supported the Technology Working Group (TWG)’s draft work plan for early 2026, including a focus on awareness and new guidance on applying Technology-related revisions to the Code.
- The IESBA received updates from the Role of CFOs Project Team and considered its proposed global outreach plan for Q1- Q2 2026, involving in-person and virtual round tables, focus group meetings, and surveys.
- The IESBA approved the A&I Working Group’s proposed IESBA Partnership Framework. Jurisdictional profiles for Argentina, Chile, China, Colombia, Hong Kong SAR, Mexico, and Türkiye will be developed in alignment with the framework.
- The IESBA considered the EIOC’s update on external developments, noting the continued significance of private equity (PE) investment in accounting firms and its implications for ethics and independence. The IESBA supported the transition of this topic to a dedicated workstream in early 2026.

See Agenda Paper 4(a) of this Board meeting for the IESBA December 2025 Board Meeting highlights.

The next IESBA meeting will be held in New York, USA, 9–12 March 2026.

### *IESBA Launches Firm Culture and Governance Viewpoints as it begins Asia Outreach*

In January 2026, IESBA launched a series of materials, marking the start of the FCG Dialogues, a six-month global engagement initiative through which IESBA will test, refine and further develop its thinking on the FCG Framework, in consultation with stakeholders. Further details are available in the IESBA’s [media release](#) and Agenda Item 5 of this Board meeting.

### *IESBA and IAASB Launch Joint Stakeholder Survey to Shape 2028-2031 Strategies*

In January 2026, the IESBA and IAASB launched a [joint global stakeholder survey](#) to shape their respective SWPs for 2028-2031. The survey will help inform the development of separate IAASB and IESBA Consultation Papers, which are targeted for approval in late 2026 and issued for public consultation in 2027. The survey is open until 15 May 2026. Further details are available in the IESBA’s [media release](#).

### *IESBA Welcomes Jon Walters as Board Member*

In January 2026, the IESBA welcomed a new Board member, Jon Walters, for a three-year term. Mr Walters currently serves as PwC’s Global Independence Leader.

The IESBA also welcomed the reappointment of Rania Uwaydah Mardini for a three-year term, and thanked Paul Muthaura and Rich Huesken, whose terms concluded at the end of 2025. Further details are available in the IESBA’s [media release](#).

### IESBA Launches Global Surveys to inform its Role of CFOs Initiative

In February 2026, the IESBA launched two [extended global stakeholder surveys](#) to inform its Role of CFOs initiative:

- [CFOs Survey](#) – directed at CFOs or equivalent senior finance leaders; and
- [Other Stakeholders Survey](#) – for stakeholders who interact with or oversee CFOs.

The surveys are open until 24 April 2026. Further details on the IESBA's Role of CFO Surveys are available at Agenda Item 11 of this Board meeting.

### The IESBA Decoding Ethics Podcast

In February 2026, the IESBA [launched](#) "Decoding Ethics: Building trust in a tech-driven world", an ethics podcast exploring the technological and ethical risks and shaping the future of accounting and finance. Two episodes are now available: [Episode 1 - How can ethics keep pace with innovation?](#) and [Episode 2 - Quantum is Coming!](#)

## **International and Other Developments**

### **International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB)**

#### IAASB Publishes Global Roundtable Feedback on Technology and Quality Management

In February 2026, the IAASB published a [summary of feedback](#) from its global Technology Quality Management roundtables. Participants broadly agreed that the International Standard on Quality Management (ISQM 1) and the International Standard on Auditing (ISA 220) (Revised) provide a strong foundation for managing technology-related risks, while also highlighting the need for additional practical guidance. The feedback will inform the IAASB's future work on Technology Quality Management.

The IAASB also approved the development of NAM in December 2025. The proposed action plan, including coordination with the IESBA, will be discussed in March 2026. Further details are available in the IAASB's [media release](#).

#### IAASB Welcomes New Member, Reappointment, and New Vice-Chair

In January 2026, the IAASB welcomed a new Board member, James Ferris, for a three-year term. Mr Ferris is the Director of Audit Policy at the UK FRC and served as the IFIAR's Standards Coordination Work Group.

The IAASB also congratulated Greg Schollum on his reappointment for a further three-year term and Edo Kienhuis on his appointment as its new Vice Chair for a one-year term. Further details are available in the IAASB's [media release](#).

#### IAASB Issues Narrow-Scope Amendments Related to IESBA's Using the Work of Experts

In January 2026, the IAASB published [narrow-scope amendments](#) to its standards to maintain interoperability with the IESBA Code, which now includes explicit ethical requirements for the use of external experts in audit, assurance, and non-assurance engagements.

Targeted amendments affect ISA 620 *Using the Work of an Auditor's Expert*, ISRE 2400 (Revised) *Engagements to Review Historical Financial Statements*, ISAE 3000 (Revised)

*Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information and ISRS 4400 (Revised) Agreed-upon Procedures Engagements.*

Further details are available in the IAASB's [media release](#).

## **International Federation of Accountants (IFAC)**

### *IFAC Welcomes New Advisory Group Members from 18 Jurisdictions*

In February 2026, IFAC welcomed the new and returning members to its advisory groups for 2026 and thanked departing members for their dedication and service to the profession. IFAC's advisory groups play a critical role in providing practical insight into how global trends affect the accountancy profession and in helping them navigate these changes.

In respect of members from Australia:

#### *Departing Member:*

- Simon Hann, Group Executive, Education & Marketing | Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand and CPA Australia (Australia)

#### *New Member:*

- Samantha Wilson, General Manager, CA Program, CA ANZ | Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ) and CPA Australia

Further details are available in the IFAC's [media release](#).

### *AI in Finance & Accounting — New IFAC Video Series*

In December 2025, IFAC and the Chartered Accountants Worldwide (CAW) Network USA co-hosted an event on AI in Finance & Accounting, bringing together a panel of leaders from practice, industry, technology, and academia.

[Five short videos](#) capture the key themes from the discussion, exploring how AI is influencing the pace of change, the evolving role of accountants, the importance of trust and design, and emerging leadership responsibilities. Further details are available in the IFAC's [media release](#).

## **UK Financial Reporting Council (FRC UK)**

### *Investigation regarding the conduct of two Members and Ernst & Young LLP in relation to the issuance of unauthorised auditor's reports*

In December 2025, the FRC investigated the conduct of two members and Ernst & Young LLP in relation to the unauthorised issuance of auditor's reports to audited entities. EY informed that it had identified and informed the relevant audited entities, remediated the audit files, and concluded that no adjustments to the related financial statements or audit opinions were required. Further details are available in the FRC's [media release](#).

### *Investigation regarding an audit of Shell plc by Ernst & Young LLP*

In December 2025, the FRC commenced an investigation into the statutory audit of the consolidated financial statements of Shell plc for the financial year ended 30 December 2024, conducted by Ernst & Young LLP. EY had reported non-compliance with audit partner rotation rules, including exceeding time limits for partner rotation under the UK FRC's Revised Ethical

Standard. The investigation will consider whether Relevant Requirements relating to partner rotation have been breached. Further details are available in the FRC's [media release](#).

## **Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB)**

### *PCAOB Sanctions CPA for Violations Related to Audit Evidence and Her Former Audit Firm for Quality Control Issues*

In December 2025, the PCAOB sanctioned Jennifer A. Crofoot and Fruci & Associates II, PLLC in connection with audits of four public companies. Ms Crofoot, as an engagement partner, authorised an unqualified audit opinion without adequate procedures on material accounts and approval from an engagement quality reviewer (EQR). The firm also failed to comply with PCAOB quality control standards, as the deficiencies impaired its ability to prevent or detect misconduct. Further details are available in the PCAOB's [media release](#).

### *PCAOB Sanctions U.S. Audit Firm for Violations That Include Failure to Reasonably Supervise an Unregistered China-Based Firm*

In December 2025, the PCAOB sanctioned TPS Thayer LLC, a U.S.-based registered public accounting firm, for failing to appropriately plan audits and reasonably supervise an unregistered public accounting firm based in China that played a substantial role in those audits. The firm was fined USD\$100,000 and required to undertake contingent remedial actions. Further details are available in the PCAOB's [media release](#).

## **American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)**

### *AICPA Seeks Comment on Ethics Update for Alternative Practice Structures*

In December 2025, the AICPA issued an exposure draft on proposed revisions to the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct. The increased prevalence of private equity (PE) investment in the profession has prompted updated interpretations of independence related to alternative practice structures. Public comments are due by 30 April 2026. Further details are available in the AICPA's [media release](#).

## **U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)**

### *SEC Appoints New Chairman and Board Members to PCAOB*

In January 2026, the SEC announced the appointment of Demetrios (Jim) Logothetis as Chairman, and Mark Calabria, Kyle Hauptman, and Steven Laughton as Board members of the PCAOB. George Botic will continue his service as a Board member and will remain as Acting Chairman until Mr Logothetis is sworn in. Further details are available in the SEC's [media release](#).

## **Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC)**

### *New ASIC Chair*

In February 2026, ASIC welcomed the appointment of Sarah Court as its incoming Chair, effective 1 June 2026. Further details are available in the ASIC's [media release](#).

### ASIC acts against 28 SMSF auditors, flags increased scrutiny on in-house audit breaches

In January 2026, ASIC acted against 28 SMSF auditors for breaches of professional obligations and standards, including independence and CPD requirements. Between 1 July and 31 December 2025, ASIC disqualified four SMSF auditors, imposed additional conditions on two auditors and cancelled 22 registrations.

ASIC also increased scrutiny on in-house audit independence breaches. An ATO review in 2025 indicated that up to 800 SMSF auditors may still be performing in-house audits. Further details are available in ASIC's [media release](#).

### CADB cancels registration of Sydney auditor for breaching duties across 10 ASX-listed audits

In December 2025, the Companies Auditors Disciplinary Board (CADB) cancelled the registration of Sydney auditor Sam Daniel for failing to discuss the engagement with the engagement quality reviewer (EQR) prior to signing and dating the audit reports for 5 ASX-listed companies audited in FY23 and FY24. Mr Daniel was fined \$73,000, and the decision was published. Further details are available in the ASIC's [media release](#).

### ASIC renews guidance on managing conflicts of interest in financial services

In December 2025, ASIC updated [Regulatory Guide 181](#) *AFS Licensing: Managing Conflicts of Interest*, which sets out clear, principles-based guidance to help Australian financial services (AFS) licensees fulfill their licensing obligations by having robust arrangements and tailored conflict management arrangements. Further details are available in the ASIC's [media release](#).

## **Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB)**

### Illustrative Corporations Act Voluntary Sustainability Assurance Reports

In January 2026, the AUASB released four [Illustrative Corporations Act Sustainability Assurance Reports](#) to promote consistent reporting by auditors from 31 December 2025:

- Illustration 1: Year 1 – Review report of specified sustainability disclosures prepared in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* (compliance framework).
- Illustration 2: Year 1 – Audit and review report on specified sustainability disclosures prepared in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* (compliance framework).
- Illustration 3: Years 2 and 3 – Review report on a sustainability report prepared in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* (fair presentation framework).
- Illustration 4: Year 4 and onwards – Audit report on a sustainability report prepared in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* (fair presentation framework).

### Assurance on voluntary Corporations Act sustainability reports

In January 2026, the AUASB issued [ASSA 2025-10](#), which amends [ASSA 5010](#) to require the approach for the phased-in assurance for Group 1, 2 and 3 entities to be applied to voluntary sustainability reports under the *Corporation Act 2001* (the Act). An updated assurance phasing-in diagram is available [here](#).

Further details are available in the AUASB's [media release](#).

## Tax Practitioners Board (TPB)

### Improving our guidance to make it easier for tax practitioners

In January 2026, the TPB updated the following policy guidance to clarify obligations under *Tax Agent Services (Code of Professional Conduct) Determination 2024* and the breach reporting requirements:

- [TPB\(I\) 45/2024](#) False or misleading statements
- [TPB\(I\) 46/2024](#) Managing conflicts of interest when undertaking activities for government and maintaining confidentiality in dealings with government
- [TPB\(I\) 43/2024](#) Breach reporting under the *Tax Agent Services Act 2009*

In particular, TPB(I) 45/2024 and TPB(I) 46/2024 refers to APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)*, APES 220 *Taxation Services* and APES GN 30 *Outsourced Services* as sources of useful guidance to tax practitioners when dealing with false or misleading statements, conflicts of interest and confidentiality.

Further details are available in the TPB's [media release](#).

### TPB announces compliance priorities with a focus on integrity

In December 2025, the TPB published its [2026 compliance priorities](#) to address both emerging and ongoing risks concerning tax practitioner misconduct or unethical behaviour. The TPB made it clear that tax practitioners who deliberately engage in misconduct or fraud will face sanctions. It also encouraged lodging [complaints](#) of serious misconduct, with [whistleblower](#) protections in place. Further details are available in the TPB's [media release](#).

### New TPB Secretary

In December 2025, the TPB welcomed Andrew Orme as its incoming Secretary, succeeding Michael O'Neil, effective mid-January 2026. Mr Orme joins from the ATO, bringing 25 years of experience in the tax system. His career spans roles as a lawyer, policy analyst and senior ATO leader, including Deputy Chief Tax Counsel. Read the TPB's [eNews](#).

## Treasury

### Strengthening the retirement phase of superannuation

In February 2026, the Treasury released the [Retirement Reporting Framework](#) and [Best Practice Principles](#) for Superannuation Retirement Income Solutions to strengthen the retirement phase of superannuation. Together, these initiatives build on the retirement income covenant's obligations and align with the Government's Delivering Better Financial Outcomes package (DBFO). Further details are available in the Treasury's [media release](#).

## Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ)

### Reappointment of Chartered Accountants Worldwide Chair

In December 2025, Chartered Accountants Worldwide (CAW) announced the reappointment of Ainslie van Onselen, CEO of CA ANZ, as Chair for a further two-year term. Read the CA ANZ's [media release](#).

## News Articles

### *KPMG partner fined for using AI to cheat – on an AI test*

In February 2026, it was reported that a KPMG Australia partner had been fined more than \$10,000 for using technology to cheat on an AI training course. The firm also identified over two dozen personnel who have used AI to cheat on internal exams since July 2025. The cheating was detected after implementing policies and extra policing to tackle widespread cheating on internal tests between 2016 and 2020. Read the AFR's [article](#) and the Guardian's [article](#)

### *How private equity has helped an Aussie accounting firm spur its growth?*

In February 2026, Accountants Daily published an [article](#) featuring a South Yarra accounting firm, Stannards Accountants & Advisors, sharing how a partnership with the PE firm has helped spur its growth. The firm maintained operational control, while Pemba Capital enabled it to pursue more aggressive growth targets and expansions, including expanding into AI and offering new service lines. Since partnering with Pemba Capital in 2024, the firm has grown its LTM revenue by approximately 22%.

## APESB Submissions, Presentations and Other Activities

### *APESB 20-year anniversary event*

APESB is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by hosting a Thought Leadership Dinner event in Sydney on 26 March 2026. The IESBA Chair Gabriela Figureido Dias will attend as the chief guest and deliver a keynote address at the event. Approximately 80 Australian and international guests will attend the event.

By the end of April 2026, a highlight video and recordings of the speeches will be made available on the [Events](#) page on the APESB website.

### *CA ANZ Article on Code Essentials for Professional Accountants*

APESB Technical Staff collaborated with CA ANZ to update an article, [Code Essentials for Professional Accountants – 2026 Edition](#), that was published in January 2026. The article highlights how the Code is structured, its mandatory requirements, and the importance of professional judgment in applying its guidance. Further details are available in the CA ANZ's [Practical Ethics Advice Series](#).

### *CA ANZ Disciplinary Panels Annual Conduct Day*

On 12 March 2026, APESB CEO Channa Wijesinghe will present to the CA ANZ Disciplinary Panels on recent updates to the Code of Ethics. The presentation will cover the Code of Ethics, focusing on its conceptual framework and practical resources to support its application.

## Recommendation

That the Board note the update on international and other activities.

## **Materials Presented**

Agenda Item 4(a) IESBA December 2025 Board Meeting highlights

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