

**AASB Standard**

**AASB 2015-6**  
March 2015

**Amendments to Australian  
Accounting Standards –  
Extending Related Party  
Disclosures to Not-for-Profit  
Public Sector Entities**

**[AASB 10, AASB 124 &  
AASB 1049]**



**Australian Government**

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**Australian Accounting  
Standards Board**

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Australian Accounting Standard AASB 2015-6 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities* is set out in paragraphs 1 – 12. All the paragraphs have equal authority.

## **PREFACE**

### **Introduction**

This Standard makes amendments to AASB 124 *Related Party Disclosures* to extend the scope of that Standard to include not-for-profit public sector entities.

AASB 124 does not presently apply to general purpose financial statements of not-for-profit public sector entities. The AASB noted that the version of AASB 124 issued in December 2009 provides a more appropriate basis for application by not-for-profit public sector entities than earlier versions of the Standard, as transactions between government-related entities of the same jurisdiction are exempted partially from disclosure. Therefore, in furtherance of its policy of promulgating transaction-neutral Standards to the extent feasible, the AASB is amending AASB 124 to require not-for-profit public sector entities to apply the Standard.

### **Main Features of this Standard**

#### **Main Requirements**

The amendments extend the scope of AASB 124 to include application by not-for-profit public sector entities. Implementation guidance is included to assist application of the Standard by not-for-profit public sector entities.

This Standard also makes related amendments to AASB 10 *Consolidated Financial Statements* and AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*, and an editorial correction to AASB 124.

#### **Application Date**

This Standard applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2016. Early application is permitted for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005 but before 1 July 2016, except that the amendments to AASB 10 may be applied early only as set out in that Standard.

#### **Reduced Disclosure Requirements**

The amendments do not affect the reduced disclosure requirements presently set out in AASB 124. Accordingly, the reduced disclosure requirements set out in AASB 124 that apply to Tier 2 not-for-profit public sector entities are the same as those applying to other Tier 2 entities.

## ACCOUNTING STANDARD AASB 2015-6

The Australian Accounting Standards Board makes Accounting Standard AASB 2015-6 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities* under section 334 of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Dated 31 March 2015

Kris Peach  
Chair – AASB

## ACCOUNTING STANDARD AASB 2015-6

### ***AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS – EXTENDING RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES TO NOT-FOR-PROFIT PUBLIC SECTOR ENTITIES***

#### **Objective**

- 1 The objective of this Standard is to extend the scope of AASB 124 *Related Party Disclosures* to include not-for-profit public sector entities. This Standard also makes related amendments to AASB 10 *Consolidated Financial Statements* and AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*, and an editorial correction to AASB 124.

#### **Application**

- 2 **Subject to paragraph 3, this Standard applies to:**
  - (a) **each entity that is required to prepare financial reports in accordance with Part 2M.3 of the Corporations Act and that is a reporting entity;**
  - (b) **general purpose financial statements of each other reporting entity; and**
  - (c) **financial statements that are, or are held out to be, general purpose financial statements.**
- 3 **In respect of AASB 1049, this Standard applies to each government's whole of government general purpose financial statements and General Government Sector financial statements.**

- 4 This Standard applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2016. The amendments to AASB 10, AASB 124 and AASB 1049 shall be applied prospectively as of the beginning of the annual reporting period in which the Standard is initially applied.
- 5 This Standard may be applied to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005 but before 1 July 2016, except that the amendments to AASB 10 may be applied early only as set out in that Standard. When an entity applies this Standard to such an annual reporting period, it shall disclose that fact.
- 6 This Standard uses underlining, striking out and other typographical material to identify some of the amendments to AASB 124, in order to make the amendments more understandable. However, the amendments made by this Standard do not include that underlining, striking out or other typographical material. Ellipses (...) are used to help provide the context within which amendments are made and also to indicate text that is not amended.

## Commencement of the Legislative Instrument

- 7 For legal purposes, this legislative instrument commences on 30 June 2016.

## Amendments to AASB 10

- 8 Example IG5 in Appendix E is amended as follows (new text is underlined and deleted text is struck through):

| <b>Implementation examples</b>   |
|--|
| <p><b>Example IG5</b></p> <p>A statutory authority SHS is established under State health services legislation to deliver services to the community. The statutory authority has a governing council that oversees the authority's operations and is responsible for its day-to-day operations. The State Health Minister, <u>as part of his role in the State Government,</u> appoints the authority's governing council and, subject to the Minister's approval, the authority's governing council appoints the chief executive of the authority.</p> <p>The State Health Department acts as the 'system manager' for the</p> |

State public health system. This role includes:

- strategic leadership, such as the development of State-wide health service plans;
- directions for the delivery of health services, such as entering into service agreements, capital works approval and management of State-wide industrial relations, including employment terms and conditions for the authority's employees; and
- monitoring of performance (eg quality of health services and financial data) of the authority and taking remedial action when performance does not meet specified performance measures.

The Minister's approval, given on behalf of the State Government, is specifically required for the following major decisions:

- entering into service agreements with the authority;
- issuing binding health service directives;
- finalisation of State-wide health service plans and capital works planning; and
- employment and remuneration of the authority's executive staff.

#### **Example IG5A**

Based on the facts and circumstances outlined above, the Department generally acts as an agent of the State ~~Health Minister~~ Government in relation to the statutory authority. This is evident from the restricted decision-making authority held by the Department. The Department does not control the statutory authority.

As the State ~~Health Minister~~ Government appoints the statutory authority's governing council and approves the major decisions affecting the authority's activities, the ~~Minister~~ State Government has the power to direct the relevant activities of the authority. Assuming that the other control criteria (variable returns and link between power and returns) are satisfied, as would be expected, then the ~~Minister~~ State Government would control the statutory authority. As a result, the statutory authority would not be consolidated by the Department, but would be consolidated directly

into the whole of government general purpose financial statements.

#### **Example IG5B**

The facts are the same as in Example IG5A except that:

- the ~~Minister~~ State Government has delegated the power to appoint members of the statutory authority's governing council to the Department head;
- the appointment of the authority's chief executive by the governing council does not require Ministerial approval;
- the ~~Minister~~ State Government has delegated the power to approve the major decisions to the Department head; and
- assessments of the Department's performance encompass the performance of the statutory authority.

In this example, the scope of the decision-making authority held by the Department has increased significantly as a result of the delegations by the ~~Minister~~ State Government to the Department head. As the Department acts as a principal under the delegations, the Department has the current ability to direct the relevant activities of the authority so as to achieve the health service objectives of the Department. As the Department also has the ability to use its power over the authority to affect the nature and amount of the Department's returns, the Department controls the statutory authority.

The Department would consolidate the statutory authority into its consolidated financial statements. The Department's consolidated financial statements would then be consolidated into the whole of government financial statements.

### **Amendments to AASB 124**

- 9 Paragraph Aus1.3 is deleted. A note concerning the paragraph is added as follows:

[Deleted by the AASB]

- 10 Paragraph Aus9.1 is amended as follows (deleted text is struck through):



**Aus9.1 The following terms are also used in this Standard with the meaning specified.**

...

~~**Disclosing entity is defined in the Corporations Act.**~~

- 11 A separate section “Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities” is added, before the Illustrative Examples, as set out below (see pages 10 – 25).

## **Amendments to AASB 1049**

- 12 Paragraph 11 is amended as follows (new text is underlined and deleted text is struck through):

11 Where an Australian Accounting Standard:

- (a) explicitly excludes from its scope not-for-profit entities, such as ~~AASB 114 *Segment Reporting* (and AASB 8 *Operating Segments*)~~<sup>1</sup>; or
- (b) ~~explicitly excludes from its scope not for profit public sector entities, such as AASB 124 *Related Party Disclosures*; or~~ [deleted by the AASB]
- (c) only applies to certain entities, such as listed companies, that are required to prepare financial reports in accordance with Part 2M.3 of the *Corporations Act 2001*, such as AASB 133 *Earnings per Share*;

the whole of government financial statements and the GGS financial statements are not required to adopt the requirements of that Standard.

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~~<sup>1</sup> AASB 8 (February 2007) is operative on or after 1 January 2009, with early adoption allowed. When applicable, AASB 8 supersedes AASB 114.~~

## **AUSTRALIAN IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT PUBLIC SECTOR ENTITIES**

*This guidance is an integral part of AASB 124 and has the same authority as the other parts of the Standard. The guidance applies only to public sector entities. The guidance does not apply to private sector entities or affect their application of AASB 124.*

- IG1 AASB 124 *Related Party Disclosures* (December 2009) incorporates International Financial Reporting Standard IAS 24 *Related Party Disclosures*, issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. Consequently, much of the text of the body of this Standard and the Illustrative Examples is expressed from the perspective of for-profit entities. The AASB has prepared this guidance to explain and illustrate the principles in the Standard to assist application of the Standard by not-for-profit public sector entities, particularly to address circumstances where a for-profit perspective does not readily translate to a not-for-profit public sector perspective. This guidance also assists not-for-profit public sector entities in determining the extent of the information necessary to meet the objective of the Standard. This guidance does not remove the need for judgement to be applied by an entity in complying with the requirements of the Standard.
- IG2 This guidance addresses a range of matters affecting not-for-profit public sector entities broadly in the order in which the related paragraphs appear in the body of the Standard. Illustrative examples are provided in the implementation guidance. The examples apply by analogy to types of not-for-profit public sector entities other than those identified in the examples and similar circumstances. It is the facts and circumstances in any case, not simply the type of not-for-profit public sector entity, that need to be assessed in determining the appropriate disclosures that apply.

### **Identification of Key Management Personnel**

- IG3 Paragraph 9 of the Standard defines key management personnel as being those persons having the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of the entity. In a public sector context, entities should consider the facts and circumstances, including the terms of the relevant legislative instruments that give rise to the entity, in assessing whether a person is a member of the key management personnel, as

defined, of the entity. For example, the facts and circumstances may reflect that not all persons described as ‘senior executive staff’ or ‘Secretary’ or ‘Minister’ may be a member of the key management personnel of the entity. Similarly, in relation to a not-for-profit public sector entity, the facts and circumstances may reflect that a person’s powers do not give rise to a capacity to direct or control the activities of an entity, where the powers are only ceremonial or procedural in substance.

- IG4 Normally, the determination of key management personnel is similar for entities in the public sector and the private sector. However, ministerial-type roles do not normally arise in a private sector context. A Minister would be a member of the key management personnel of an entity that is within the Minister’s portfolio if the Minister has the “authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly”. In some entities or jurisdictions, the responsible Minister may not, in substance, have such authority and responsibility over the activities of the entity, and consequently would not meet the definition of key management personnel.
- IG5 A Minister may be a member of the key management personnel of an entity where the Minister’s role and responsibilities result in the Minister forming part of the group of persons tasked with determining the direction of the entity. It would be uncommon for a Minister to be a member of the key management personnel of an entity that is within his portfolio where the entity is not otherwise controlled by the government, as the government’s powers and functions (executed by the Minister) in relation to that entity would have formed part of the government’s assessment of whether it controls the entity. Whether a Minister is a member of the key management personnel of an entity controlled by the government will depend on the facts and circumstances that apply in each instance, as the determination of the key management personnel of an entity is made on an entity by entity basis. Accordingly, a member of the key management personnel of the government is not necessarily also a member of the key management personnel of each entity controlled by that government (see also paragraph IG10).
- IG6 Examples 1 – 6 illustrate application of the definition of key management personnel by not-for-profit public sector entities. These examples do not limit the persons who may be key management personnel of a not-for-profit public sector entity to only those roles described.

**Example 1**

Minister A is the Australian Minister for Education and Training. He administers his portfolio through the Department of Education and Training (the Department), a controlled entity of the Australian Government. Minister A is accountable to Parliament for the actions of the Department. As part of his portfolio, he is responsible for:

- education policy and programs including schools, vocational, higher education and Indigenous education, but excluding migrant adult education;
- education and training transitions policy and programs;
- science awareness programs in schools;
- training, including apprenticeships and training services;
- policy, co-ordination and support for education exports and services; and
- income support policies and programs for students and apprentices.

Minister B is the Assistant Minister for Education and Training. Assistant Ministers are appointed to assist Ministers in prioritising work, to provide a training experience for future Ministers, to facilitate public access to the Ministers and to enable the bureaucracy to have an ongoing point of contact so that parliamentary correspondence and other parliamentary administrative issues are neither overlooked nor downgraded. As an Assistant Minister, Minister B cannot:

- sit as a Minister in Cabinet;
- attend a meeting of the Executive Council or sign Executive Council Minutes on behalf of the Minister;
- perform any duties in Parliament on behalf of the Minister including answering questions without notice, presenting Ministerial Statements, tabling documents and introducing legislation; or
- appear before a Committee of Parliament on behalf of the Minister.

The Department is responsible for delivering national policies and programs that help Australians access quality early childhood education, school education, higher education, vocational education and training, international education and research. The Department is headed by the Secretary of the Department, who reports to the Australian Minister for Education and Training. At the same time, the Secretary also makes reports to the Assistant Minister for Education and Training. The Secretary of the Department, and two Associate Secretaries and a Deputy Secretary within the Department, operate as the executive management team responsible for the day-to-day delivery of the Department's services.

Based on the facts and circumstances above, Minister A, the Secretary of the Department, and the two Associate Secretaries and Deputy Secretary are members of the key management personnel of the Department as they have the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity. Minister A's role is akin to that of a director in a company, as he discharges his role and responsibilities regarding the Department and is ultimately responsible for the performance of the Department. Minister B is not a member of the key management personnel of the Department as his role supports that of the Minister, rather than having any authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Department in his own right.

### **Example 2**

The Cabinet is a group within the Australian Government (the Commonwealth of Australia) comprising the Prime Minister and a number of senior Ministers. All current Ministers are part of the Executive Council, but not all Ministers are also part of Cabinet. The Governor-General is the chair of the Executive Council.

Minister A, the Australian Minister for Education and Training, is part of Cabinet. Minister B, the Assistant Minister for Education and Training is not part of Cabinet but is part of the Executive Council. Minister D, the Minister for Justice, is also not part of Cabinet but is part of the Executive Council.

Cabinet's role is to direct the overall government policy and make decisions about national issues. In Cabinet meetings, Ministers also present bills from their government departments. Cabinet examines these bills, and recommends whether bills should proceed to Parliament or changes should be made. A Minister who is not part

of Cabinet may be invited to a Cabinet meeting to speak about developments within their portfolio. The Cabinet is accountable to Parliament for the running of the government.

The Executive Council is a constitutional body charged with advising the Governor-General. Legally, members of the Executive Council are chosen by the Governor-General; however, in practice, all current Ministers are part of the Executive Council. The Executive Council acts as a formal ratification body for the decisions of Cabinet, and is required to undertake a range of functions including making proclamations, regulations and ordinances as delegated by various Acts of Parliament, issuing writs for elections, appointing public servants and recommending the appointment of judges.

Section 61 of the Australian Constitution provides that “The executive power of the Commonwealth is vested in the Queen and is exercisable by the Governor-General as the Queen’s representative, and extends to the execution and maintenance of this Constitution, and of the laws of the Commonwealth”. However, the Governor-General is bound by convention to follow the advice of the Executive Council.

Based on the facts and circumstances above, Minister A is a member of the key management personnel of the Australian Government. As part of Cabinet and having regard to Cabinet’s powers, Minister A has the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Australian Government. In addition, as a member of the key management personnel of the Australian Government, Minister A is also a related party of any entities controlled by the Australian Government, consistent with paragraph 9 of the Standard.

Minister B and Minister D are unlikely to be members of the key management personnel of the Australian Government as, although they are part of the Executive Council, they are outside the group of persons responsible for making decisions about the overall running of the government. Further, in substance, neither the members of the Executive Council nor Governor-General have the authority and responsibility for directing and controlling the activities of the Australian Government, and accordingly, are not members of the key management personnel of the Australian Government reporting entity.

**Example 3**

University XYZ is a not-for-profit public sector entity established under an Act of the State Government. The State Government has determined that it does not control the University.

The governing body of the University is the University Council. The University Council consists of 17 members, five of whom are appointed directly or indirectly by the State Minister for Education. The Chair of the University Council is the Chancellor, who is the formal head of the University. The Chancellor is responsible for ensuring the efficient operation of the University Council in the performance of its governance role, presiding at ceremonial occasions of the University and acting as a signatory to official statutory reports of the University.

The Act specifies that the University Council's responsibilities, powers and functions include:

- approving the mission, strategic direction and annual budget and business plan of the University;
- establishing policies ('university statutes and regulations') relating to the governance and operation of the University, including trusts and endowments, and research, development, consultancy, commercial activities and other services undertaken for commercial organisations or public bodies;
- developing guidelines (if any) concerning the carrying out of commercial activities, finance and property matters, or any other related matter;
- overseeing the management of the property, finances and business affairs of the University, such as risk management across the University, including its commercial activities;
- any other powers and functions conferred on it by or under legislation or any university statute or regulation; and
- the power to do anything else necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with its powers and functions.

The University Council has a range of powers and functions that it can exercise directly, including the following:

- appointing the Vice-Chancellor, who is the chief executive officer of the University and responsible for the conduct of the

University's affairs in all matters;

- determining the composition of borrowings within the parameters set by the State Government;
- approving the University's budget for a financial year, incorporating total revenue and the planned revenue sources, including planning the mix between teaching, research and commercial activities, the fees and charges to apply to those activities, and the type and value of government grants desired;
- determining the course mix and target student mix, such as vocational, undergraduate, graduate and executive courses, on-campus or distance learning, and local and international students;
- appointing staff and determining their terms and conditions;
- deciding whether to operate through multiple campuses and how to utilise the University's infrastructure; and
- making university regulations with respect to any matter relating to the University.

The University Council has delegated the day-to-day management responsibilities and other functions to the University's executive and other senior staff in order to be able to focus on the broader policy and strategic issues.

The State Minister for Education has the following powers and functions as part of his role in the State Government:

- fixing the remuneration and fees to be paid to University Council members who are not full-time staff of the University or holders of statutory office;
- approving (or vetoing) University statutes and guidelines made by the University Council;
- declaring an activity to be a university commercial activity;
- making interim guidelines concerning university commercial activities and finance and property matters – these apply unless replaced by University-submitted guidelines approved by the Minister;
- in conjunction with the State Treasurer, approving the limits



and conditions (eg security) for University borrowings;

- approving (or vetoing) the disposal of land that was previously Crown land granted to the University;
- requesting commercial and financial reports from the University;
- referring a university commercial activity or any aspect thereof to the auditor-general for investigation; and
- ensuring that the University complies with certain rights specified in State Government grants provided to the University – some of the grants are required to be repaid if not applied as specified.

Based on the facts and circumstances above, as the State Government has determined that it does not control the University, it is unlikely that the State Minister for Education, as the executor of the State Government's powers, is a member of the key management personnel of the University, as the evaluation of control includes an assessment of the State Government's ability to direct the activities that most significantly affect the University's outcomes. The State Minister's powers and functions (provided to the position) may restrict the way in which the University operates, but do not of themselves give the State Minister authority and responsibility for the activities of the University.

Rather, based on the facts and circumstances above, it is the University Council (who are akin to a board of directors, with the Chancellor akin to a non-executive chairman) and the University's executive and other senior staff who have the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the University.

The purpose of this Example is to assist entities with the identification of key management personnel of a not-for-profit public sector entity. However, an entity should also consider whether the State Minister for Education, or the State Government, will otherwise meet the definition of a related party of the University (see paragraph 9 of the Standard).

#### **Example 4**

The LMN local government (the Council) is a local government

entity created under a State's Local Government Act (the Act) and is subject to a wide range of State Government regulatory powers. The interest of the State Government in the activities of the Council is primarily to ensure that the general objectives set out in the Act are being achieved or furthered. The State Government's rights in respect of the Council are held primarily by the State Minister for Local Government. These rights allow the State Government (via the State Minister for Local Government) to advise or guide the Council in its activities, or under particular circumstances, to intervene in the activities of the Council.

Minister X is the State Minister for Local Government. He administers his portfolio through the Local Government branch of the State Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (the Department). As part of his role and responsibilities, Minister X is responsible for:

- the scrutiny of councils, including municipal boundaries;
- making recommendations for allocation of project grants to local governments for projects;
- overseeing tendering processes for council services;
- ensuring the concerns of local governments are communicated to the State Cabinet; and
- the coordination of council community and infrastructure work at a State level.

The Council's primary objective is to achieve the best outcomes for the local community over the long term. The Council is empowered by the Act to do all things necessary and convenient for the achievement of its objectives and the performance of its functions, subject to any limitations under the Act or any other legislation.

The Council is administered by 10 councillors, who are elected directly by the local community in periodic elections. The Council's functions include raising revenue to fund its functions and activities, and planning for and providing services and facilities (including infrastructure) for the local community. In carrying out its functions, the Council undertakes a wide range of activities including the imposition of rates and charges upon constituents, and the provision without charge of services such as parks and roads. The day-to-day operations of the Council are carried out by council

staff under the direction of its elected councillors.

The State Government has determined that it does not control the Council.

Based on the facts and circumstances above, Minister X is not a member of the key management personnel of the Council, as his role does not extend to having the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Council itself. Having concluded that the State Government does not control the council, Minister X's role as executor of the State Government's powers and rights over the Council cannot of itself enable Minister X to meet the definition of key management personnel of the Council. Rather, in this example, it is the councillors and senior council staff who have the authority and responsibility for the activities of the Council (similar to a board of directors and senior management of a company).

The purpose of this Example is to assist entities with the identification of key management personnel of a not-for-profit public sector entity. However, an entity should also consider whether Minister X, or the State Government, will otherwise meet the definition of a related party of the Council (see paragraph 9 of the Standard).

#### **Example 5**

Minister E, the State Minister for Education, Minister F, the State Minister for Children and Early Childhood, and Minister G, the State Minister for Higher Education and Skills, administer their portfolios wholly through the State Department of Education (the Department), a controlled entity of the State Government.

The day-to-day operations of the Department are managed by an Executive Board comprising the Secretary of the Department and the head of each of the Department's divisions. The Executive Board is the governance and decision-making body for the Department accountable for the:

- strategic direction and leadership of the Department;
- management of the Department;
- decision-making and risk management;

- monitoring and evaluation of the Department's activities; and
- compliance and stakeholder management.

The Department reports to the three Ministers, separately or jointly as appropriate to the nature of the Ministers' portfolio. The Ministers are jointly accountable to Parliament for the actions of the Department.

Based on the facts and circumstances above, Minister E, Minister F and Minister G, and the members of the Executive Board are members of the key management personnel of the Department as they have the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Department. The Ministers' roles are akin to that of directors in a company, even though each has responsibility only to the extent of their respective portfolios, as they discharge their roles and responsibilities regarding the Department and are ultimately responsible for the performance of the Department.

#### **Example 6**

Statutory authority SLA is a statutory authority of the State Government tasked with providing legal information, advice and representation to financially disadvantaged residents of the State. As a statutory authority, SLA was established under its own enabling legislation, which sets out its functions, powers and responsibilities. Its remit is such that it generally operates independently of any governmental direction or influence.

SLA is funded by the State Government to undertake state law matters. The State Government may specify areas to which certain of the funds granted should be allocated. SLA is a controlled entity of the State Government.

The execution and authority for the day-to-day operations of SLA are the responsibility of its executive management team, who report to the Board of SLA. The Board is the statutory authority's governing body and is responsible for managing SLA and ensuring that its objectives are achieved. The Board is responsible for deciding SLA's priorities and strategies, leading its policy direction and ensuring its sound and prudent financial management. Board members are appointed by the State Governor in Council, on advice of the State Minister for Justice.

SLA is accountable to the State Government for the delivery of legal assistance services. As a statutory authority, the Board of SLA reports to the State Minister for Justice, who is responsible to Parliament for the oversight of statutory authorities within his portfolio.

SLA's enabling legislation provides that the Board must:

- if asked by the State Minister for Justice, give the Minister a report on any issue relevant to its functions, other than about legal assistance for a particular person; and
- act upon a written direction given by the State Minister for Justice about the performance of SLA's functions or exercise of its powers, and its policies, priorities or guidelines, including priorities in legal assistance funding. The direction cannot be about giving legal assistance to a particular person.

While SLA generally operates independently of any governmental direction or influence, from time to time, the State Minister for Justice has requested various reports and required SLA to act as directed.

Based on the facts and circumstances above, the Board and executive management team of SLA are members of the key management personnel of the entity, as they ultimately have the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity. In this fact pattern, the State Minister for Justice is also a member of the key management personnel of SLA, as the powers vested in his role also give him authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, as SLA is required to act in accordance with the Minister's written directions (which may relate to SLA's execution of its remit).

The purpose of this Example is to assist entities with the identification of key management personnel of a not-for-profit public sector entity. However, consideration should also be given to whether the State Government is a related party of SLA (see paragraph 9 of the Standard).

## **Key Management Personnel Compensation**

IG7 In the public sector, Ministers are normally compensated through one or more central government agencies or authorities. In relation to

not-for-profit public sector entities, the central government agency typically operates as a management entity for the purposes of applying paragraph 17A of the Standard.

- IG8 Paragraph 18A of the Standard requires disclosure of amounts incurred by the entity preparing general purpose financial statements for the key management personnel services that are provided by a separate management entity. No disclosure is required to comply with the requirement in paragraph 18A where an entity is not obligated to reimburse the management entity for key management personnel services it has obtained.

## **Related Party Transactions**

- IG9 Paragraph 18 of the Standard requires an entity to disclose information about transactions that have occurred between the entity and its related parties, including transactions between the entity and its key management personnel or key management personnel of the entity's parent, that is necessary for users to understand the potential effect of the relationship on the financial statements.
- IG10 Ministers, councillors and other senior public servants may qualify as a related party of a public sector entity under one or more of the criteria set down in paragraph (a) in the definition of 'related party' in AASB 124. For example, a Minister who is a member of the key management personnel of the Commonwealth or State government is, under the definition of 'related party', a related party not only of the Commonwealth or State government consolidated entity but also of each controlled entity of that government (see Example 2 in paragraph IG6). In such instances, the Standard requires the controlled government entity to disclose related party transactions with that Minister which are necessary to meet the objective noted in paragraph 1 of the Standard, whether or not the Minister has responsibility for the entity.
- IG11 A related party transaction is a transfer of resources, services or obligations between an entity and its related party, regardless of whether a price is charged. In the not-for-profit public sector, many entities are likely to engage frequently with persons who are a related party of that entity in the course of delivering the entity's public service objectives, including the raising of funds (for example, rates and taxes) to meet those objectives. These related party transactions often occur on terms and conditions no different to those applying to the general public (for example, the Medicare rebate or public school fees). A not-for-profit public sector entity may determine that information about related party transactions occurring during the

course of delivering its public service objectives and which occur on no different terms to that of the general public is not material for disclosure in its general purpose financial statements and accordingly need not be disclosed. Guidance relevant to an entity's assessment of the materiality of a disclosure to its general purpose financial statements is included in AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements* and AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*. The factors described in paragraph 27 of the Standard may also assist an entity in making this determination.

- IG12 Examples 7 – 8 describe different types of related party transactions that may occur between not-for-profit public sector entities and their related parties:

**Example 7**

Councillor P is a member of the key management personnel of the LMN local government (the Council). The Council's functions include raising revenue to fund its functions and activities, and planning for and providing services and facilities (including infrastructure) for the local community. In carrying out its functions, the Council undertakes a wide range of activities including the imposition of rates and charges upon constituents, and the provision without charge of services such as parks and roads.

Councillor P is a ratepayer residing within the Council's constituency. As such, he takes advantage of the availability of free public access to local parks and libraries. Councillor P also used the swimming pool at the Council's Recreation Centre twice during the financial year, paying the casual entry fee applicable to the general public each time. The recreation centre has approximately 20,000 visitors each financial year.

All of the transactions described above between the Council and Councillor P are related party transactions of the Council considered for disclosure in the Council's general purpose financial statements. Based on the facts and circumstances described, the Council may determine that these transactions are unlikely to influence the decisions that users of the Council's financial statements make having regard to both the extent of the transactions, and that the transactions have occurred between the Council and Councillor P within a public service provider/ taxpayer relationship.

**Example 8**

Minister Z, the State Minister for Planning, has responsibility for a range of functions and, in certain circumstances, has the power to intervene on matters associated with planning and heritage processes. Minister Z is a member of the key management personnel of State Government H.

Entity MED is a controlled entity of State Government H, and operates within the State Health sector. Entity MED is currently seeking State development approval for a potentially contentious new building.

Around this time, Entity MED enters into a contract with Entity STU, an entity wholly-owned and controlled by a close member of Minister Z's family for Entity STU to provide cleaning services at various current and future Entity MED locations, including the new building when completed. The cleaning contract was won by Entity STU in an open tender. Minister Z has declared information about the contract to provide cleaning services to Cabinet and it is included as part of his Register of Members' Interests. During the reporting period, Entity STU rendered services of \$50,000 to Entity MED. No amounts remain outstanding at Entity STU's reporting date. Entity MED assesses the cleaning services rendered to be a material component of its total operating expenses.

Entity STU is a related party of Entity MED in accordance with the definition of a related party in paragraph 9 of the Standard. The provision of \$50,000 cleaning services by Entity STU to Entity MED described above is a related party transaction of Entity MED as there has been a transfer of services and resources between Entity MED and Entity STU. Based on the facts and circumstances described, management of Entity MED may determine that information about the transaction is material for disclosure in its general purpose financial statements as there has been a transfer of resources occurring other than as a result of a public service provider/ taxpayer relationship between related parties and the amount of the transaction is material to Entity MED.

The provision of \$50,000 cleaning services by Entity STU to Entity MED described above is also a related party transaction of State Government H as Minister Z is a member of the key management personnel of State Government H and Entity MED is a controlled entity of State Government H. State Government H should separately assess whether the related party transaction is material for disclosure in the whole-of-government financial statements.



## **Government-related Entities**

- IG13 Paragraph 25 of the Standard provides a limited exemption from the disclosure requirements of paragraph 18 for government-related entities, subject to the alternative disclosures in paragraph 26 of the Standard. An entity considers, on balance, the range of factors included in paragraph 27, as well as any additional relevant factors, in determining the extent of the disclosure required by paragraph 26(b). In some instances, the presence of a single factor identified in paragraph 27 will not be sufficient to inform the entity of the level of individual or collective significance of the transaction. For example, a requirement of legislation to report on various transactions to Parliament may not of itself inform a not-for-profit public sector entity of the significance of a transaction to itself where the entity's objective is to carry out such transactions, and consequently, the entity should also have regard to other factors in forming its assessment of the significance of the transaction. In other instances, a single factor may be adequate to establish the extent of the significance of the transaction to the entity.
- IG14 Individually significant transactions would normally form a small subset, by number, of the total related party transactions of the entity. Paragraph IE3 in the Illustrative Examples accompanying the Standard provides examples of disclosure to comply with paragraph 26(b).

## BASIS FOR CONCLUSIONS

*This Basis for Conclusions accompanies, but is not part of, AASB 2015-6.*

### Background

- BC1 This Basis for Conclusions summarises the Australian Accounting Standards Board's considerations in deciding to extend the scope of AASB 124 *Related Party Disclosures* (December 2009) to the not-for-profit public sector. Individual Board members gave greater weight to some factors than to others.
- BC2 The first version of AASB 124, AASB 124 *Related Party Disclosures* (July 2004), applied explicitly to general purpose financial statements of companies and other for-profit entities. The December 2005 and subsequent versions of AASB 124 specifically exempt not-for-profit public sector entities from applying AASB 124. This exemption was provided on the grounds of practicability, including the number of intra-government transactions.
- BC3 The Board received representations from constituents that the disclosure of relevant related party information is a critical element of accountability in the public sector. A key example is information relating to key management personnel of public sector entities, the disclosure of which is not required under current Australian Accounting Standards.
- BC4 Following requests from its constituents to review IAS 24 *Related Party Disclosures*, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) made amendments to simplify the definition of 'related party' and, to ease concerns about practicability, provide a partial exemption from the disclosure requirements for entities that are related by virtue of being controlled, jointly controlled or significantly influenced by the same government. The Board incorporated the revised IAS 24 into AASB 124 (December 2009). The Board noted that this version of AASB 124 provides a more appropriate basis for application by not-for-profit public sector entities than the previous versions, as transactions between government-related entities of the same jurisdiction are exempted partially from disclosure.
- BC5 Therefore, in furtherance of its policy of promulgating transaction-neutral Standards to the extent feasible, the Board initiated a project to consider issues relating to extending the scope of AASB 124 (December 2009) to not-for-profit public sector entities. The Board issued Exposure Draft ED 214 *Extending Related Party Disclosures to the Not-for-Profit Public Sector* in July 2011. ED 214 exposed for

public comment the Board's proposal to extend the scope of AASB 124 to include not-for-profit public sector entities. The ED explained the Board's reasons for its proposals, including its considerations as to the applicability of AASB 124 to a not-for-profit public sector context. In addition, public roundtables were conducted with public sector constituents to identify concerns and implementation issues arising from the Board's proposals.

- BC6 In finalising its proposals that not-for-profit public sector entities be required to apply AASB 124 unamended, the Board addressed a range of issues, including consideration of:
- (a) amending the definition of 'key management personnel' for such entities;
  - (b) amending the requirements to provide such entities with some relief from disclosure of ministerial compensation;
  - (c) exempting such entities from disclosing certain related party transactions with Ministers;
  - (d) not requiring general government sector (GGS) financial statements to comply with AASB 124;
  - (e) adding a public sector perspective to AASB 124, for example by inserting an alternative definition for the term 'business' in paragraph 5 of AASB 124; and
  - (f) extending the disclosure requirements in AASB 124 for key management personnel.

Each of these issues and the outcome of the Board's considerations are noted below.

- BC7 In finalising its proposals, the Board also considered constituent feedback for implementation guidance to be developed to assist not-for-profit public sector entities in applying AASB 124. The Board noted that while some information about Ministerial or senior executive compensation or related party transactions may be disclosed pursuant to other legislation or directives, the requirement to apply AASB 124 will be the first time that information about a not-for-profit public sector entity's related parties is specified by Australian Accounting Standards for inclusion in its general purpose financial statements. Consequently, such entities may not have previously considered challenges in implementing the Standard's requirements in a not-for-profit public sector environment. The Board considered that these entities may also have difficulty in

identifying and determining the extent of the information necessary to meet the objective of AASB 124, as described in paragraph 1 of the Standard. Accordingly, the Board determined that the final amendments would include implementation guidance to assist not-for-profit public sector entities with their implementation of the Standard.

## **Significant Issues**

### **Definition of Key Management Personnel**

- BC8 The Board considered whether an amendment of the definition of key management personnel for the not-for-profit public sector would be necessary to facilitate a decision to remove the not-for-profit public sector exemption from AASB 124, but decided that the present definition was suitable. The AASB noted that, in a public sector context, entities should consider the facts and circumstances in assessing whether a person is a member of the key management personnel, as defined, of the entity.
- BC9 The Board considered that normally, the determination of key management personnel will be similar for entities in the public sector or the private sector. For example, a not-for-profit public sector entity will need to determine whether all, or only certain, of its senior executive service employees meet the definition of key management personnel. However, the Board acknowledged constituents' concerns that the determination of key management personnel may not be straightforward in the not-for-profit public sector given ministerial-type roles. The Board noted that it does not regard a Minister to always be a member of the key management personnel of a not-for-profit public sector entity; rather, this is dependent on the particular circumstances of the jurisdiction and of the entity. Accordingly, the Board decided to add guidance to the Standard, in the absence of a private sector analogy, to assist not-for-profit public sector entities in applying the definition of key management personnel to Ministers, as ministerial-type roles do not usually arise in a private sector context.
- BC10 The Board also noted that an entity may determine that a relevant Minister may not meet the definition of key management personnel of an entity. However, the Board observed that this did not preclude that Minister from being otherwise identified as a related party of the entity, for example, where the Minister is a member of the key management personnel of the entity's parent.

## **Key Management Personnel Compensation – Ministers**

- BC11 Respondents to ED 214 raised concerns that the requirements of AASB 124 pertaining to the disclosure of key management personnel compensation would be onerous if applicable to Ministers, noting also that any attribution of a Ministerial salary across entities coming under the responsibility of that Minister's portfolio would involve significant judgement.
- BC12 The Board considered whether some relief was necessary with respect to the compensation of a Minister who is a member of the key management personnel of an entity. The Board observed that Ministers are typically remunerated through Parliament via a central agency, and that a Minister's compensation, while related to their responsibilities, may not be related to services performed for any specific entity or group of entities.
- BC13 The Board noted the addition of paragraphs 17A and 18A into AASB 124 since the comment period on ED 214 closed. These paragraphs were inserted into AASB 124 by AASB 2014-1 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards* (June 2014) to address the disclosures that apply where members of the key management personnel are not employees of the reporting entity (see paragraphs BC51 and BC52 of IAS 24). The Board considered that these paragraphs will be of relevance to a not-for-profit public sector entity when considering the disclosure of the compensation of a Minister who has been identified as part of the key management personnel of the entity, and may alleviate the respondents' concerns noted in paragraph BC11. Accordingly, the Board decided that no amendment to AASB 124 to address the disclosure of ministerial compensation was necessary at this time. However, the Board decided to add implementation guidance to clarify the manner it considers paragraph 17A operates in relation to a Minister's compensation.

## **Related Party Transactions**

- BC14 The definition of 'related party' in AASB 124 separately addresses persons and entities related to the entity preparing general purpose financial statements. The partial exemption in AASB 124 from the disclosure requirements for government-related entities applies only in relation to those entities specified in paragraphs 25(a) and 25(b) of that Standard, and not also to persons who are related parties covered by paragraph 17 (key management personnel compensation) or paragraph 18 (transactions during the periods covered by the financial statements) of AASB 124.

- BC15 Having regard to the partial exemption for government-related entities in AASB 124, the Board considered whether providing an exemption for the disclosure of related party transactions with Ministers or local government councillors was justified by any circumstances unique to the public sector and that may not have been considered by the IASB, whose mandate is limited to for-profit entities. The Board's consideration included the role of Ministers in a government and how onerous the disclosures required under AASB 124 might be. As part of its consideration, the Board had regard to the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board's decisions relating to disclosures of related party transactions with Ministers.
- BC16 The Board observed that Ministers who are members of the key management personnel of their government would also be related parties not only of the government but also of each controlled entity of the government. Accordingly, a subsidiary government entity will be required to disclose related party transactions with Ministers who may have no responsibility for the entity to the extent the disclosures are considered material, from the entity's perspective, for disclosure. For example, the Board noted that in Example 1 of the Illustrative Examples accompanying AASB 124, Entities 1, 2, A, B, C and D will be required to disclose in their financial statements related party transactions between a Minister who is a member of the key management personnel of Government G and the entity, even where the Minister's portfolio does not include the entity.
- BC17 The Board noted that, as is often the case with related party transactions, judgement would be required as to when transactions are material, especially when qualitative assessments are made about the nature of transactions. The Board considered situations in which key management personnel of a not-for-profit public sector entity, including Ministers or local government councillors where so identified, paid taxes, levies or other statutory charges or fees faced generally by citizens, or used public services such as state hospitals or schools. The Board does not expect, absent unusual circumstances, that the application of materiality would result in disclosure in many of these situations. In contrast, a commercial contract entered into by a Minister or local government councillor with a related public sector entity may be relevant for disclosure, similar to a commercial contract between a member of the key management personnel of a for-profit entity and the for-profit entity (for example, a contract to provide accountancy services between the entity and an entity controlled by a member of its key management personnel). Accordingly, the Board observed that a not-for-profit public sector entity would also need to apply judgement in determining the extent of information it needs to collect to meet the objective of AASB 124, as there is little value in an entity incurring significant costs to obtain

data that is immaterial for disclosure. The Board noted that it would expect appropriate criteria to be identified so that information about transactions that are possibly material (for example, transactions that have occurred at a different price or volume to that applying to the general public) is captured for assessment.

- BC18 Having regard to the role of materiality, the Board decided that no specific exemption from disclosure of the related party transactions with key management personnel of a not-for-profit public sector entity, including any Ministers or local government councillors where so identified, was necessary. However, to respond to constituents' requests for clarification on the extent of disclosures required of related party transactions that occur in the not-for-profit public sector, the Board decided to add implementation guidance to AASB 124 to assist not-for-profit public sector entities in this regard.

### **Transactions with Ministers Acting in Their Collective Government Capacity**

- BC19 The Board considered whether transactions with Ministers who are related parties and who are acting in their collective government capacity would be assessed as being with the government and eligible for the partial exemption from disclosure in paragraphs 25 and 26 of AASB 124. The Board decided that such transactions were in substance transactions between the entity and the government-related entity, rather than being transactions with the Ministers in their own right, and that no clarification to the Standard was necessary in this regard (however, see also paragraphs BC20 – BC22 below).

### **Government-related Entities**

- BC20 The Board noted that not-for-profit public sector entities were previously excluded from applying the Standard on grounds of practicability, including having regard to the number of intra-government transactions. In extending the Standard to apply to not-for-profit public sector entities, the Board considered the extent of transactions for which disclosure may be necessary to comply with paragraph 26 of the Standard.
- BC21 In its considerations, the Board had regard to the IASB's reasons for including the partial exemption, being to resolve concerns raised when the Standard was applied in environments where government control is pervasive. The Board noted that the IASB had indicated that it did not intend to require the entity to identify every government-related entity or to quantify in detail every transaction

with such entities, as such a requirement would negate the exemption (see paragraph BC43 of IAS 24).

BC22 The Board noted that it shared the IASB's view communicated in paragraph BC45 of IAS 24. Paragraph BC45 of IAS 24 states:

BC45 The Board noted that this requirement should not be too onerous for the reporting entity because:

- (a) individually significant transactions should be a small subset, by number, of total related party transactions;
- (b) the reporting entity should know what those transactions are; and
- (c) reporting such items on an exceptional basis takes into account cost-benefit considerations.

Nevertheless, the Board decided to add implementation guidance to the Standard to respond to constituent concerns about the extent of disclosure required by paragraph 26.

## **Other Issues**

### **Applicability to the General Government Sector**

BC23 Respondents to the Exposure Draft sought clarification as to whether related party disclosures would be required in general purpose financial statements of entities in the general government sector (GGS). The Board noted the requirements in AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting* for GGS and whole of government financial statements to be made available at the same time and, if presented separately, to be cross-referenced to each other. The Board also noted that there may be considerable overlap between the related party disclosures for the GGS and whole of government financial statements, and that exempting GGS entities from the scope of the Standard may reduce complexity and duplication of disclosures.

BC24 The Board noted that the issue of related party disclosures by subsidiary entities is also relevant to for-profit entities, and considered that related party disclosures for the GGS entity need not be the same as the disclosures for the whole-of-government or other public sector entities. Accordingly, the Board decided that GGS financial statements should not be exempt from complying with the Standard.



## **Public Sector Perspective**

BC25 The Board considered whether amendment was necessary to AASB 124, for example, to paragraphs 5 and 27, to add a public sector perspective to the Standard. The Board decided that amendment was not necessary in this regard and that the addition of limited implementation guidance in respect of not-for-profit public sector entities would provide a sufficient public sector perspective to the Standard.

BC26 For example, the Board considered whether an alternative definition (to that in Appendix A of AASB 3 *Business Combinations*) for the term 'business' in paragraph 5 of AASB 124 was necessary. The Board decided that an alternative definition is not required, which is consistent with its decision when it reissued AASB 3 in March 2008. In the Board's view, the term 'business' can be read broadly. In particular, the phrase "lower costs or other economic benefits directly to investors or other owners, members or participants" in the definition of 'business' in AASB 3 is broad and can be applied by not-for-profit public sector entities.

## **Extending the Disclosures of Key Management Personnel of Public Sector Entities**

BC27 In finalising the amendments, the Board considered requests from some public sector constituents for additional disclosures (such as salary banding disclosures) for key management personnel in the public sector. Some constituents also queried whether additional disclosures similar to those required by section 300A of the *Corporations Act 2001* of key management personnel of listed companies should be required in respect of key management personnel of government business enterprises, based on the view that for-profit government business enterprises should be regarded as at least as publicly accountable as such entities.

BC28 The Board follows a policy of transaction neutrality in the requirements in Standards. Therefore, the Board decided not to require any compensation or other related party disclosures for key management personnel of public sector entities in addition to those specified of key management personnel of private sector entities, including in instances where a not-for-profit public sector entity has availed itself of the relief in paragraph 17A of AASB 124. The Board was not convinced that there was a not-for-profit sector specific reason to impose disclosures that exceed the requirements for for-profit entities.

## **Reduced Disclosure Requirements**

BC29 The Board considered whether amendment was required to the reduced disclosure requirements specified in paragraph Aus1.11 for application by not-for-profit public sector entities, and decided that no amendment was necessary in this regard. Accordingly, the reduced disclosure requirements set out in AASB 124 that apply to Tier 2 not-for-profit public sector entities are the same as those applying to other Tier 2 entities.

## **Application Date and Transitional Provisions**

BC30 The Board considered the application date and transitional provisions of the amendments to extend the scope of AASB 124 to include not-for-profit public sector entities. The Board acknowledged constituent concerns about the ability of existing systems, processes and controls to capture the information required, and requests for a lengthy transition period prior to mandatory application of the amendments.

BC31 The Board was disinclined to unnecessarily further extend the period to which these amendments are on issue before mandatory application, having made its key decisions on the amendments in 2012, and as the finalised amendments are largely as were exposed. Further, the Board noted that Australian Implementation Guidance to AASB 10 *Consolidated Financial Statements* relating to the application of control by not-for-profit entities had been issued by the Board in October 2013. The Board also noted that the forthcoming issue of an amending standard extending the scope of AASB 124 to not-for-profit public sector entities has been signalled in its publicly available work program. Accordingly, the Board decided that the amendments should apply to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2016.

BC32 However, having regard to constituent concerns, the Board decided not to require comparative related party disclosures to be presented in the period of initial application of the amendments.