



Draft AASB Education Strategy (August 2019)

Background

1. The AASB's vision and mission are to contribute to stakeholder confidence in the Australian economy, including its capital markets, and in external reporting by:
 - (a) Developing, issuing and maintaining principles-based accounting and external reporting standards and guidance, that meet user needs and enhance external reporting consistency and quality; and
 - (b) Contributing to the development of a single set of accounting standards for worldwide use.
2. The AASB is part of the overall regulatory framework for the financial system in Australia. One of the strategic objectives of AASB is to promote rigorous and consistent application of its Standards and guidance.
3. The AASB Education Strategy is an integral part of the AASB's objective to ensure the standard-setting process engages with stakeholders. From a broader perspective, it is important that stakeholders understand the role of AASB domestically and internationally in regulating financial reporting and playing a part in the Australian economy. From a detailed perspective it covers interpretations of standards, implementation and post-implementation support and educational activities.
4. Development of the AASB's Education Strategy is based on the following four questions:
 - (a) What does the AASB expect its stakeholders to know about its role and projects, and what do they need to know to implement the Standards consistently?
 - (b) How will the AASB identify the needs of the stakeholders?
 - (c) How will the stakeholders get the required educational support from the AASB and its partners?
 - (d) Has the AASB achieved the objectives of the Education Strategy?

The AASB's Education Strategy will contribute to the rigour and consistency with which the Standards are applied, by supporting stakeholders, internal and external, including preparers, auditors, users, and academics. The AASB's education initiatives are not its primary focus. Accordingly, the focus is to partner with those that are better placed to develop and deliver financial reporting related education to better target their education initiatives.

5. This strategy outlines the objectives and the process of embedding and implementing the strategy and discusses how it will lead to better communication, and support for stakeholders.



Objectives of the AASB Education Strategy

6. The objectives of the AASB's Education Strategy are to:
- (a) Ensure from a broader perspective; stakeholders understand the role of the AASB domestically and internationally in regulating financial reporting and playing a part in the Australian economy;
 - (b) Identify the needs of stakeholders through agenda consultation and other stakeholder consultation and survey;
 - (c) Educate the stakeholders on AASB projects and inform them about the driving forces behind the changes in Standards;
 - (d) Support stakeholders in their interpretations of standards, implementation and adoption through educational initiatives either directly or indirectly by working with others who might be better placed to provide this support;
 - (e) Support and encourage technically rigorous education of AASB standards at educational institutions in Australia;
 - (f) Support the needs of stakeholders in the not-for-profit sector where there is a shortage of educational materials and expertise;
 - (g) Facilitate effective partnerships with those who are better placed to deliver widespread financial reporting related education; and
 - (h) Use technology effectively to widen stakeholder reach.

Embedding the AASB Education Strategy

7. The AASB embeds its Education Strategy in its programs among stakeholders by building education plans into all key AASB projects, including who will develop and deliver appropriate education materials targeted to the different stakeholder needs. The project plan template has a specific component addressing the education plan that is approved by the Board, including a list of possible options.
8. The AASB Education Strategy will be embedded in the following ways:
- (a) Focusing communications on clear and concise identification of who is impacted, likely extent of impact, when impact will occur and why change is being proposed;
 - (b) Developing education materials including illustrative examples, webcasts, podcasts, frequently asked questions (FAQs) on specific topics of interest and implementation issues;
 - (c) Tailoring resources and support for each of the three sectors, for-profit, not-for-profit private and not-for-profit public;



- (d) Establishing Transition Resource Groups or Implementation Groups for major new standards and/or to mirror those established by the IASB to assist in identifying and resolving implementation issues, or other forums or workshops for knowledge sharing as appropriate;
- (e) Identifying and disseminating useful and curated resources from around the world;
- (f) Delivering presentations at conferences and meetings;
- (g) Regularly updating stakeholders with the changes in Standards as they occur and periodically identify those Standards that are applicable for a particular reporting period;
- (h) Promoting the teaching of accounting standards specific to not-for-profit private and not-for-profit public sector entities through liaison with key educational institutions; and
- (i) Utilising technology to facilitate communities of key stakeholders to engage with AASB and make resources easily available to the stakeholders.

Partnering with stakeholders and sharing of educational resources

9. The aim of partnering with stakeholders is to facilitate collaboration for the development and delivery of financial reporting related educational material to better target their education initiatives. Partnering with stakeholders and sharing of resources will include the following:
- (a) Partner with Accounting and Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand (AFAANZ) to promote the Strategy;
 - (b) Develop and enhance a database of financial accounting professional bodies (CPA Australia, CAANZ, CIMA, IPA, NIA) to facilitate regular communication with the professional bodies to facilitate the development of educational material and to utilise their distribution channels to broaden access to stakeholders;
 - (c) Develop and enhance a database of financial accounting academics and educational institutions to facilitate regular communication with the educators
 - (d) Facilitate production of educational materials in collaboration with educators and professional associations specifically for not-for-profit private and not-for-profit public sector entities;
 - (e) Communicating with publishers and authors of financial accounting textbooks to discuss the changes they could introduce in the next edition of their textbooks;
 - (f) Work closely with other regulators and standard setters including IFRS Foundation and IPSASB to access and share resources in a mutually beneficial way;



- (g) Encourage academics to collaborate and share resources;
- (h) Make optimal use of the AASB website to make resources easily available; and
- (i) Explore new online delivery mechanisms for supporting stakeholders' needs.

Limitations on the Scope of Activities Associated with the AASB Education Strategy

10. The scope of activities associated with the implementation of the AASB Education Strategy will be limited by the resources available to AASB. Since AASB is a small organisation with a limited budget and staff base, efforts will be made to make the best use of the existing resources and support from other organisations.

Post Implementation Monitoring, Reporting and Review of the AASB Education Strategy

11. Mechanisms will be used to monitor and report on the success of the AASB Education Strategy. The following approach will be employed to measure the success of the Strategy post-implementation:
- (a) Collate in a database, details on the programs delivered and support offered by AASB to stakeholders, internal and external, including preparers, auditors, users, and academics;
 - (b) Monitoring and reporting based on the progress towards AASB education initiatives at the end of each financial year;
 - (c) Conduct annual and three-year reviews of the implementation of the Strategy; and
 - (d) A review includes feedback using a survey instrument from a wide range of stakeholders, both internal and external.