



AASB Education Strategy

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. 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. This includes, but is not restricted to, the interpretation of standards, implementation and post-implementation support, and educational activities.
4. Rigorous and consistent application of Standards and associated guidance is integral to improving the comparability and quality of financial reports. The aim of AASB's Education Strategy is to contribute to the rigour and consistency with which the Standards are applied, by supporting stakeholders, internal and external, including preparers, auditors, users, regulators and academics. The education initiatives are not part of AASB's primary role. The aim is to engage or partner with those who are best placed to develop and deliver financial reporting-related education to meet stakeholders' needs.
5. The AASB's Education Strategy supports the process of embedding and implementing its strategic objective of promoting rigorous and consistent application of Standards and guidance.

Objectives of the AASB Education Strategy

6. The objectives of the AASB's Education Strategy are to:
 - (a) Ensure that, from a broader perspective, stakeholders understand the role of the AASB domestically and internationally in regulating financial reporting and contributing to the Australian economy;



- (b) Identify the needs of stakeholders through agenda consultation and other forms of stakeholder consultation and survey;
- (c) Educate stakeholders on AASB projects and inform them about the rationale underlying the changes in Standards;
- (d) Support stakeholders including auditors in their interpretation and implementation of standards through educational initiatives, undertaken via engaging with those best placed to provide this support;
- (e) Encourage technically rigorous education applying AASB standards at educational institutions in Australia;
- (f) Support the specific needs of stakeholders in the not-for-profit sector where there is a shortage of relevant educational materials and expertise; and
- (g) Use technology effectively to widen stakeholder reach.

Embedding the AASB Education Strategy

7. The AASB embeds its Education Strategy by building education plans into all key AASB projects, including the specific identification of parties to develop and deliver appropriate education materials targeted to various stakeholder needs. Embedding of the Education Strategy requires an understanding of what stakeholders are expected to know and to facilitate access to appropriate educational support. Each 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) With respect to changes in accounting Standards and guidance, focusing communications on clear and concise identification of those impacted, the likely extent of the impact, when such impact will occur, and the reasons any 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, namely for-profit, not-for-profit private and not-for-profit public sector;
 - (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) Communicating with the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB) and audit firms about new Standards and the audit implications related to these Standards;
- (h) Regularly updating stakeholders about changes in Standards as they occur for a particular reporting period;
- (i) 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
- (j) 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 promote rigorous and consistent application of Standards and guidance. 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 among educators;
 - (b) Develop and enhance a database of financial accounting professional bodies (e.g. CPA Australia, Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, Institute of Public Accountants, Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, Australian Institute of Company Directors, governance institutions) to facilitate regular communication with the professional bodies to promote the development of educational material specific to the needs of stakeholders, and to utilise their distribution channels to broaden access to stakeholders;
 - (c) 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;
 - (d) Work closely with other regulators and standard setters including IFRS Foundation and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) to access and share resources in a mutually beneficial way;
 - (e) Encourage academics to collaborate and share resources;
 - (f) Make optimal use of the AASB website to facilitate easy availability of resources; and
 - (g) 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 these resources, in conjunction with 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) Create a database capturing details on the programs delivered, and support offered by AASB to stakeholders, including preparers, auditors, users, regulators 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, where reviews can include feedback using a survey instrument.