

AASB Research Forum 2021

Call for academic expressions of interest (revised topics)
Submissions due 18 September 2020

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Australian Government

Australian Accounting Standards Board

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overview

What is the AASB Research Forum?

The AASB Research Forum is an annual event where timely and topical academic research in relation to financial reporting is presented before an audience of key industry stakeholders. The forum usually consists of three presenting academic research teams, a panel of industry executives who provide live feedback and discussions, and questions from the audience.

The Research Forum is the AASB's premier annual event, and in addition to it bringing emerging financial reporting topics to the forefront, it also provides networking opportunities for accountants, academics, and other industry stakeholders.



Why should I consider conducting research for the Research Forum?

The 2019 AASB Research Forum had over 120 attendees throughout the day, illustrating the industry's interest in thought-provoking academic research as it relates to financial reporting standards and practices. The AASB endeavours to deliver timely, engaging topics that are relevant for stakeholders, and by extension, to spark dialogue about the way we develop standards, and how they might be improved.

With the 2020 AASB Research Forum's proceedings underway, we are now calling for Expressions of Interest from academics who wish to undertake research that will produce actionable insights for the AASB's consideration and present it at the 2021 AASB Research Forum.

Your findings have the power to influence tomorrow's decisions for the greater benefit of the International and Australian accounting industry and economy.

The AASB wants academics to make practical recommendations for standard-setters and encourages them to be bold in their recommendations. Academics help inform the AASB about the future of financial reporting and the areas where standard setting activities are needed.

Should your application to participate in the AASB Research Forum be successful, you'll benefit from several key opportunities that will help give your research findings prominence:

- Members of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) are involved in the AASB Research Forum – previous AASB Research Forum presenters have been asked to present their findings at some key international standard-setting meetings, such as the Accounting Standards Advisory Forum.
- Academics will have their work exposed to a network of key industry executives, including up to 200 in the live audience, and thousands more through the AASB's engaged database, social network, and industry partnerships.
- Research findings may be taken into consideration by the IASB and AASB for future standard-setting projects, therefore your academic research can have real-world outcomes for the greater benefit of the Australian and International accounting industry.
- Authors will also benefit from the AASB's publication relationship with academic journals including Accounting and Finance, which has published studies from previous research forums, and Australian Accounting Review which welcomes academic research for practitioners.

More information about previous forums can be found on the [AASB website](#).



Who is the audience I'm preparing my research for?

Your audience consists of academics and executives from the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors, the majority of whom will be impacted by your research findings. These include users, preparers, auditors, and regulators of financial statements, as well as Australian and international accounting standard-setters.

What topics can I choose from?

In addition to the successfully selected research projects for the 2021 Research Forum, the AASB has revised the topics of interest to better suit the work program and research needs of the AASB.

The Appendix to this document presents the areas of particular interest to the AASB. Topics can include (see the Appendix for full description):

- Transaction neutrality; and
- Post-implementation reviews of standards.



submissions

How to submit your Expression of Interest

Expressions of Interest must be relevant to stakeholders in the for-profit and not-for-profit (either public or private) sectors, and adhere to the following format:

1. Paper title
2. Names of researchers, institutions they represent
3. Synopsis – please submit a maximum of 200 words on each of the following:
 - Why the research is important.
 - The research that will be undertaken, including:
 - Research aims.
 - Proposed research questions.
 - Methodology.
 - Possible assistance from the AASB (if required).
 - The relevance of possible conclusions from the research to inform the AASB's standard setting activities and its strategic objectives.

Should you be successful in your application, we will get in touch with your research team to discuss further details.

Expressions of Interest should be submitted no later than 5.00pm, Friday 18 September 2020 to the Research Principal via research@aasb.gov.au

(Revised) Research topics suggested by the AASB

This appendix outlines possible research questions and topics that the AASB considers relevant to its current and possible future standard-setting work program. Applicants are not limited to the suggestions, but are encouraged to consider and build on them.

suggested research topics

1. Transaction neutrality– the fundamental base and strategy for setting standards in Australia– significant implications of transaction neutrality for the not-for-profit and public sector

Building off previous research,¹ which provides insights into the views of NFP preparers and managers on the application of transaction neutrality, the AASB is interested in research on:

- Do primary users of NFP financial statements (in private and/or public sectors) find information more useful when prepared using transaction-neutral accounting standards, as compared to being prepared under a bespoke NFP-sector set of accounting standards?
- Is the AASB's due process to employ transaction neutrality appropriate to meet the needs of NFP stakeholders, including both preparers and users?
- Is transaction neutrality appropriate for NFP public sector entities (as compared to NFP private sector entities)?

2. Post-Implementation Reviews of IFRS standards in Australia

Further, the following new IFRS Standards have been issued in Australia recently with post-implementation reviews to be undertaken by the IASB in several years' time. Input into the impact of adopting the new standards, how users have benefited from the new standards, and issues experienced by preparers and users would be timely.

- AASB 9 *Financial Instruments*.
- AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.
- AASB 17 *Insurance Contracts*

3. Post-Implementation Reviews–Domestic Standards

Australian-specific standards have also been issued recently, and the AASB would value the same information as above in relation to costs, benefits and challenges. Imminent domestic post-implementation reviews are:

- AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*
- AASB 1056 *Superannuation Entities*

¹ AASB Research Report 3 [The impact of IFRS Adoption in Australia: Evidence from Academic Research](#); AASB Research Report 4 [Review of Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards in Australia](#); Kober, R., Lee, J. & Ng, N. (2020), Australian not-for-profit sector views on the conceptual framework, accounting standards and accounting information, *Accounting and Finance*.