



Terms of Reference for AASB Academic Advisory Panel

Objectives and Scope of Activities

- 1 The Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) has an evidence-informed approach to setting standards as a key enabler of its [strategy for 2017-2021](#). The AASB's evidence-informed approach is to:
 - (a) Obtain appropriate evidence for all key projects to improve the relevance and timeliness of information available to the AASB for its decision-making activities; and
 - (b) Encourage and/or produce research that will clarify, illuminate and provide leadership in national and international thinking on standard-setting issues.
- 2 For the purpose of its evidence-informed approach, the AASB defines two types of evidence:
 - (a) Descriptive, which provides evidence of existing practice as well as identifying views and perceptions among stakeholders; and
 - (b) Explanatory, which has its focus as the robust demonstration of reasons why outcomes are observed or would otherwise be expected to occur.
- 3 The objective of the Academic Advisory Panel (AAP) of the AASB is to provide a conduit for the AASB to obtain access to academic expertise and build strong relationships with the academic community, particularly regarding informing and influencing the Australian and international accounting standard-setting process so that it is as evidence-informed as possible.
- 4 In fulfilling this role, AAP members facilitate:
 - (a) Identification of academic research that has been or is about to be conducted that is relevant to AASB projects;
 - (b) Advising relevant academics of projects/research topics of interest to the AASB;
 - (c) Identifying academic research that should be formally presented to the AASB and/or the IASB;
 - (d) Reviewing and critiquing research of interest to the AASB;
 - (e) Assisting researchers in defining the scope, methodology and research questions of chosen/proposed research projects to improve their relevance to the AASB;
 - (f) Assisting researchers to obtain support for research, including but not limited to accessing AASB data and constituents;
 - (g) Reviewing research proposals to be conducted on the AASB's behalf, and/or identifying appropriate academics to perform such work;
 - (h) Identifying graduate interns suitable for employment by the AASB;
 - (i) Identifying suitable candidates for academic in-residence programs offered by the AASB;

- (j) Identifying important contacts for the AASB within the academic community and assisting with the building of relationships, including with relevant journals;
- (k) Assisting with the organisation of the AASB's annual Research Forum, including a selection of research papers and monitoring the progress of such projects;
- (l) Providing technical expertise and/or advice to research projects the AASB elects to conduct itself; and
- (m) Identifying suitable candidates for the AASB academic board member.

5 The AAP is an informal consultative group and not a formal decision-making group.

Role of Project Advisory Panel Members

6 The role of AAP members is to act in an advisory capacity to the AASB staff, providing academic, technical expertise, as well as their personal perspective(s) on the issues relating to the AAP. It is anticipated that Members will be fully apprised of the content of the issue(s) being considered and papers prepared by the AASB staff from time to time and that they will familiarise themselves with other resource material relevant to the projects being discussed.

7 Members are expected to assist in identifying key academic researchers and other key stakeholder groups/individuals that the AASB staff and Board should consult.

8 Members will have the opportunity to contribute to issues papers or other AASB documents and may be asked to review draft versions of pronouncements to provide feedback to AASB staff, including identifying any practical implementation issues.

Composition and Membership

9 The AAP consists of up to 20 members with relevant expertise. Membership of the AAP is by invitation only, although the AASB may publicly request expressions of interest. Members are appointed in their individual capacity.

10 Members are drawn from the Australian academic community and have a demonstrated interest in research on financial reporting and related matters.

11 In determining the membership, regard is had to obtaining a suitably wide range of expertise in the various areas affecting research on financial reporting and related matters, including accounting, audit, for-profit, not-for-profit private and public sector subject areas.

12 Potential Members of the AAP are identified by existing members of the AAP, the AASB staff and AASB Board. Final selection of AAP Members is approved by the Chair of the AASB, and the Chair has the discretion to make changes to the membership at any time. This is a transparent process, and AAP membership is published on the AASB website.

13 The Chair of the AAP will be the Chair of the AASB or AASB Technical Director.

14 The AASB's academic Board member will be a member of the AAP.

Operating Procedures

- 15 Members of the AAP will meet periodically at the request of the Chair.
- 16 Meetings will generally be held via videoconference or teleconference at the offices of the AASB in Melbourne, or in person at the AFAANZ conference and will not be open to the public. Regular communications may also occur via email or telephone at other times. There will generally be at least three meetings per annum.
- 17 The time commitment for members is expected to be between 20 and 25 hours per annum.
- 18 Acceptance of an invitation will presuppose the members' availability to participate in most, if not all, the activities of the AAP.
- 19 Members of the AAP will not receive remuneration but will be compensated for travel expenses, where specifically requested to travel by the AASB.

Winding up

- 20 A recommendation for the winding up is made by the AASB Technical Director and approved by the Board via a simple majority.

Meeting Agenda, Papers and Minutes

- 21 AASB staff will organise and facilitate meetings by preparing agendas, minutes and other papers as required.
- 22 Minutes of Meetings will be provided to the AASB Board, including as part of project updates, generally within ten working days.

Confidentiality

- 23 Agenda items and other information associated with meetings will not be made public unless the Chair decides otherwise. Members are encouraged to consult with other experts that may assist in forming their views. Members are permitted to share relevant meeting materials on the condition that the materials are not further distributed.

Conflicts of Interest

- 24 If a member of the AAP believes they may have a conflict of interest regarding a matter they are consulted on, the member should inform the Chair, who will determine the future participation of the member about that matter.

Communication

- 25 AAP members will be identified on the AASB website and are permitted to identify themselves as members.
- 26 AAP members are not permitted to hold themselves out as representing the views of the AASB or the AAP. All media or other enquiries should be referred to the AASB Communications Manager via standard@asb.gov.au.