



## Tender: AASB Opportunities

The Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) is responsible for developing high-quality accounting and sustainability standards that contribute to stakeholder confidence in the Australian economy, including its capital markets, and in external reporting.

The AASB has a broad work program (<https://aasb.gov.au/current-projects/work-program/>) and through this tender is approaching the market, to bring to the markets attention a number of current opportunities.

Each of the opportunities contained within this tender will be awarded and therefore commence from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024. If you are responding to this tender, or elements of the tender, you are confirming that unless you state otherwise, you are available to commence activity from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

You do not have to respond to all elements/opportunities as listed in the tender.

The AASB expects that all of the opportunities contained within this tender should be completed within the timeframe stated under each project. The successful tenderers will need to have the resources to complete the projects independent of the AASB. The AASB will not be providing any materials, facilities or access to staff as a part of this project unless explicitly mentioned as part of the opportunity.

Please provide a simple tender response (one pager) clearly identifying: Project, Academic Institution/Legal Entity (if applicable), Team members, credentials, expertise, timeframe and cost (including GST).

Response are due back to [finance@aasb.gov.au](mailto:finance@aasb.gov.au) by Close of Business 31st May 2024. It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded no later than 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024. In determining the awarding of the tender the AASB will assess experience in conducting similar projects, value for money, availability of resources and timeframe to complete this project.

In sending out this brief the AASB is not entering into any financial or contractual relationship with any party. The AASB also reserves the right to not award any tender.

If you have any questions relating to any of the opportunities contained in this tender please email [finance@aasb.gov.au](mailto:finance@aasb.gov.au) with a specific question. AASB will endeavour to respond to your question but reserves the right to provide/display the answer to all those that received this tender.

## **Projects for Secondment/Temporary (Short-term) Contractor**

### **1. Not-for-profit Financial Reporting Framework**

The AASB is seeking a Project Manager to support the AASB Not-for-profit Financial Reporting Framework project for FY2024-2025.

The Project Manager will be responsible for undertaking the project work under the supervision and review of AASB staff. The primary responsibilities of the Project Manager include:

- project planning and management support;
- initial drafting of various AASB documentation including illustrative examples, illustrative financial statements, overview of differences between relevant financial frameworks and other educational material;
- support of the outreach with stakeholders; and
- support stakeholder engagement management.

### **2. Service Performance Reporting**

The AASB is seeking a Project Manager to support the AASB Service Performance Reporting project for FY2024-2026.

The Project Manager will be supported by an Assistant Project Manager and be primarily responsible for undertaking project work under the supervision and review of more senior staff. The primary responsibilities of the Project Manager include:

- project planning and management;
- initial recommendations for technical drafting;
- manage outreach with stakeholders; and
- manage stakeholder engagement.

### **3. Public Sector Financial Reporting Framework**

The AASB is seeking a Project Manager (contractor) to support the AASB Public Sector Financial Reporting Framework for FY2024-2025.

The Project Manager will be responsible for undertaking the project work under the supervision and review of senior staff. The primary responsibilities of the Project Manager include:

- project planning and management;
- benchmarking AASB Standards and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS);
- draft staff papers;
- draft AASB meeting papers and lead Board discussions;
- manage outreach with stakeholders; and
- manage stakeholder engagement.

## **Projects for tender**

### **4. Service Performance Reporting Research Project**

The AASB is seeking a researcher/research team to be involved in the AASB Service Performance Reporting project.

The output of the research project will include:

- investigate lessons learned from the New Zealand FRS 48 experience followed by the recommendations about the suitability of NZ PBE FRS 48 Service Performance Reporting in an Australian context;
- analysis of current service performance reporting practices of NFP private sector entities in Australia, with a view to identifying best practice;
- analyse assurance matters in relation to the service performance reporting in Australia and overseas; and
- provide recommendations based on the findings from the work above and other evidence obtained through relevant AASB work.

The activities above will also include a thematic analysis of interview transcripts and contextual analysis of relevant reports. The AASB expects at this stage that this research project should be completed by March 2025. The successful tenderer will need to have the resources to complete this project independently of the AASB.

The AASB will not be providing any materials or facilities. However, regular consultation with designated AASB staff will be essential. The researcher (research team) is expected to provide regular updates on the milestones.

### **5. Literature Review on Service Performance Reporting**

The AASB is seeking a researcher/research team to perform a literature review on service performance reporting. The report will be an updated literature review to supplement the AASB Research Report *14 Literature Review: Service Performance Reporting for Not-for-Profits* (February 2020), including the literature identified in the Productivity Commission's Philanthropy Inquiry draft report (November 2023).

The final report should also provide a summary of the main findings from the literature and recommendations.

The AASB expects at this stage that this research project should be completed by January 2025. The successful tenderer will need to have the resources to complete this project independently of the AASB.

The AASB will not be providing any materials or facilities. However, regular consultation with designated AASB staff will be essential. The researcher (research team) is expected to provide regular updates on the milestones.

## **6. Benchmarking Report on Public Sector Service Performance Reporting in Australia**

The AASB is seeking a researcher/research team to prepare a benchmarking research report that provides a comprehensive review of service performance reporting requirements and practices in the Australian public sector, including entities in the Australian Government, each state and territory government and local governments.

The AASB expects at this stage that this research project should be completed by January 2025. The successful tenderer will need to have the resources to complete this project independently of the AASB.

The AASB will not be providing any materials or facilities. However, regular consultation with designated AASB staff will be essential. The researcher (research team) is expected to provide regular updates on the milestones.

## **7. Public Sector Financial Reporting Framework Research Project**

The AASB is seeking a researcher/research team to conduct a comprehensive review of the public sector financial reporting framework. The research aims to investigate whether the current public sector reporting on all levels of government entity (i.e. Whole-of-Government (WoG) and General Government Sector, government Department, entities controlled by WoG and local government) is appropriate and whether changes and improvements to the framework are warranted. The study should include investigating the reporting of administered items and budgetary information, including whether using the IFRS standards as the basis for financial and budget reporting remains appropriate.

The research will involve interviews with key stakeholders and contextual analyses of public sector financial reports. The final report should include:

- a literature review;
- a thematic analysis of interview transcripts;
- contextual analysis of financial reports; and
- provide recommendations.

The AASB expects that this research project should be completed by March 2025. The successful tenderer will need to have the resources to complete this project independently of the AASB. The AASB will not be providing any materials or facilities, except consultation with designated AASB staff. The researcher (research team) is expected to provide regular updates on the milestones.

## **8. Connectivity of non-financial and financial information in public sector reporting**

The AASB is seeking to collaborate with a researcher/research team to investigate how the connectivity of non-financial and financial information is currently applied and understood in public sector reporting.

The research will involve interviews with key stakeholders and contextual analyses of public sector financial reports. The final report should include:

- a literature review;
- a thematic analysis of interview transcripts;
- contextual analysis of financial reports; and
- provide recommendations.

The AASB expects that this research project should be completed by March 2025. The successful tenderer will need to have the resources to complete this project independently of the AASB. The AASB will not be providing any materials or facilities, except consultation with designated AASB staff. The researcher (research team) is expected to provide regular updates on the milestones.

## **9. Connectivity of non-financial and financial information in not-for-profit private sector reporting**

The AASB is seeking to collaborate with a researcher/research team to investigate how the connectivity of non-financial and financial information is currently applied and understood in not-for-profit private sector financial reporting.

The research will involve interviews with key stakeholders and contextual analyses of not-for-profit private sector financial reports. The final report should include:

- a literature review;
- a thematic analysis of interview transcripts;
- contextual analysis of financial reports; and
- provide recommendations.

The AASB expects that this research project should be completed by March 2025. The successful tenderer will need to have the resources to complete this project independently of the AASB. The AASB will not be providing any materials or facilities, except consultation with designated AASB staff. The researcher (research team) is expected to provide regular updates on the milestones.

## **10. Statement of IFRS compliance and Tier-2 entities**

The AASB is seeking a researcher/research team to investigate whether the statement of IFRS compliance is beneficial to Tier-2 entities (including NFP entities).

The research will involve interviews with key stakeholders. The final report should include:

- a literature review;
- a thematic analysis of interview transcripts;
- contextual analysis of financial reports; and
- provide recommendations.

The AASB expects that this research project should be completed by January 2025. The successful tenderer will need to have the resources to complete this project independently of the AASB. The AASB will not be providing any materials or facilities, except consultation with designated AASB staff. The researcher (research team) is expected to provide regular updates on the milestones.

## **11. Post-implementation Review of AASB 1060 *General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* and AASB 2020-2 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Removal of Special Purpose Financial Statements for Certain For-Profit Private Sector Entities***

The AASB is seeking a research/project team to conduct a post-implementation review of AASB 1060 and AASB 2020-2.

The post-implementation review will involve:

- a literature review;
- conduct preliminary outreach to receive feedback;
- draft Invitation to Comment document;
- analyse comment letters;
- a thematic analysis of interview transcripts;
- provide recommendations; and
- draft feedback statement.

The AASB expects that this research project should be commenced in July 2024 and is expected to be completed by Q1 2026. The successful tenderer will need to have the resources to complete this project independently of the AASB. The AASB will not be providing any materials or facilities, except consultation with designated AASB staff. The researcher (research team) is expected to provide regular updates on the milestones.

## **12. Lodgement of Tier-1 and Tier-2 financial statements by non-listed entities**

The AASB is seeking a researcher/research team to investigate the lodgement of Tier-1 and Tier-2 financial statements by non-listed entities (e.g. proprietary entities and not-for-profit private and public entities).

The final report should include:

- a literature review;
- contextual analysis of financial reports; and
- provide recommendations.

The AASB expects that this research project should be completed by January 2025. The successful tenderer will need to have the resources to complete this project independently of the AASB. The AASB will not be providing any materials or facilities, except consultation with designated AASB staff. The researcher (research team) is expected to provide regular updates on the milestones.

## **13. Corporate Behaviour and Climate-related Financial Disclosures: Phase 1 and 2**

The AASB is seeking a researcher/research team to investigate and analyse trends in corporate behaviour and climate-related financial disclosures.

This project aims to shed light on how companies are addressing climate change through their actions and their financial reporting.

There are two phases for this project:

The first phase is to:

- conduct a comprehensive review of existing research on the topic; and
- establish a clear baseline for measuring changes in both corporate behaviour and climate-related disclosures.

The research is expected to be completed by **March 2025**.

The second phase is to:

- provide updates on the literature review;
- leverage the developed baseline to conduct an in-depth analysis of the evolving trends in corporate behaviour and climate-related disclosures; and
- formulate actionable recommendations based on the research findings.

The research is expected to be completed by **March 2027**.

The activities above will also include a thematic analysis of interview transcripts and contextual analysis of relevant reports. The successful tenderer will need to have the resources to complete this project independently of the AASB.

The AASB will not be providing any materials or facilities. However, regular consultation with designated AASB staff will be essential. The researcher (research team) is expected to provide regular updates on the milestones.

#### **14. Valuation and Financial Reporting**

The AASB is seeking a researcher/research team to investigate the current state of valuation practices in Australian for-profit entities. This project aims to understand how valuations are conducted for financial reporting purposes, including the challenges encountered and how these practices are disclosed in financial statements.

The research activities will include a thematic analysis of interview transcripts and contextual analysis of relevant reports. The AASB expects at this stage that this research project should be completed by March 2025. The successful tenderer will need to have the resources to complete this project independently of the AASB.

The AASB will not be providing any materials or facilities. However, regular consultation with designated AASB staff will be essential. The researcher (research team) is expected to provide regular updates on the milestones.

#### **15. Compliance of Mandatory and Voluntary Climate Disclosure Regime**

The AASB is seeking a researcher/research team to investigate compliance for Australian entities under international climate disclosure regimes, including both mandatory and voluntary frameworks. The project will assess:

- The extent of current and anticipated compliance by Australian entities.
- The level of alignment and interoperability between these reporting requirements and frameworks.

This research project is expected to be completed by March 2025. The successful tenderer will need to have the resources to complete this project independently of the AASB.

The AASB will not be providing any materials or facilities. However, regular consultation with designated AASB staff will be essential. The researcher (research team) is expected to provide regular updates on the milestones.

**16. Investor Perspective: Navigating Financial and Non-financial Information**

The AASB is seeking to collaborate with a researcher or research team to investigate how Australian investors navigate financial and non-financial information for decision-making.

The AASB expects that this research project should be completed by March 2025. The successful tenderer will need to have the resources to complete this project independently of the AASB. The AASB will not be providing any materials or facilities, except consultation with designated AASB staff. The researcher (research team) is expected to provide regular updates on the milestones.

**17. Research on Intangibles**

The AASB is seeking to collaborate with a researcher or research team to investigate issues related to intangibles reporting in the financial reports.

The scope of the research project will be determined by the AASB. The research project should be completed by March 2025. The successful tenderer will need to have the resources to complete this project independently of the AASB. The AASB will not be providing any materials or facilities, except consultation with designated AASB staff. The researcher (research team) is expected to provide regular updates on the milestones.