

IAESB Strategy: AAT Response

2014-2016 IAESB Strategy and Work Plan

AAT is pleased to have the opportunity to respond to the proposed IAESB Strategy and Work Plan and continue to be committed to providing as much useful input to these consultation opportunities as possible.

General comment

With regard to the proposed strategy, we particularly endorse the aim of supporting and providing guidance to facilitate the implementation of the revised IESs. It is important that these documents demonstrate the value added to organisations and are treated as working documents, rather than running the risk of being viewed as the result of a bureaucratic paper based exercise and going unused. This will be especially crucial for nations where the adoption of global standards is in its infancy; through further work on implementation, IFAC and IAESB should be able to clearly and quickly add practical value.

Specific comments

AAT would like to highlight a query concerning the use of the term 'professional accountant' as utilised in the Chairman's statement. The standards referred to within the IESs are equally applicable to accounting technicians belonging to IFAC member bodies. It is in the public interest that these people are properly regulated and supported so we would like to see this explicitly recognised and referenced within through the use of appropriate terminology and language.

Point 5 within the Chairman's statement appears to include an error; we believe the sentence should read "also impacts the quality of professional accounting..."

We would like to query the need for a separate stated 'higher purpose' over and above the stated 'mission' and would suggest that these are integrated into the overall mission statement. Statement number 13 in particular appears to be very similar to statement 15 (under 'Our Mission').

We would query the use of the term 'endorsement' within the second strategic priority (page 11). The term creates the impression of paying lip service rather than truly engaging. We would suggest the possible use of 'embedding' instead.

AAT would suggest that the use of the term 'outreach work' in statements 21 and 23 could be mis-construed as potentially patronising and would suggest that an alternative form of words could be found.

This concludes the AAT's comments on the 2014-2016 IAESB Strategy and Work Plan.

Suzie Webb
Director of Education
AAT