

# 2025 Australian Professional Standards (APSR) Highlights Extract

For year ending 31 December 2025



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# Professional Standards Highlights 2025

Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (**CA ANZ**) proudly represent a global community of over 140,000 professionals committed to excellence in accounting and associated disciplines, professional ethics and acting in the public interest.

Guided by our Supplemental Royal Charter and By-Laws, we uphold and enforce the highest standards of technical competence, ethical conduct, and professional integrity.

This **highlights extract** is taken from our draft 2025 Annual Professional Standards Report (**2025 APSR**). The draft 2025 APSR is subject to Board approval before submission to the PSC by 31 March 2026. Our reports to the PSC demonstrate our ongoing commitment to the quality standards of our members and the accounting profession.

Trust and ethics remain the foundation of our profession, and we remain steadfast in protecting them.

## Improving occupational standards

### A – Awareness regarding scheme renewal

During 2025, we used many opportunities to provide members with an overview of the Professional Standards Scheme, the professional risks members face, and to remind them of their obligations under the scheme. Further, we ensured a strong communication plan to make the public at large aware that the current scheme was approved in 2025.

Below are examples of these communication and awareness activities undertaken during the year:

- The Professional Standards Roadshow, an online webinar for CA ANZ members (March 2025) (refer below for more details of the content covered)
- Increasing awareness of professional indemnity insurance (**PII**) requirements by sharing materials created by our business partner Aon and conducting complimentary webinars
- Online Event – AU Sharing Knowledge: Your Guide to CA ANZ's New Professional Standards Scheme – 2025 – 2030 (see details on page 5)
- Personalised letter sent by email to scheme participants (Certificate of Public Practice (**CPP**) holders), affiliate members and Practice Entity Members (**PEMs**) directly from the Chief Executive Officer
- Published a [Media Release](#)
- Posted a [News Article](#) on our website
- Created social media posts on [Linked In](#) and [My CA](#)
- To raise awareness with all CA ANZ employees, we published information on the CA ANZ intranet site

- [Details](#) of the renewed scheme were included in the Smaller Practices Update (25 March 2025).
- Published a [Small Firm, Big Impact Podcast](#) where CA ANZ's General Manager Professional Standards, joined podcast host (CA ANZ Public Affairs Lead) to discuss the scheme and what it means for CA ANZ members in public practice (6 June 2025)
- Included an article in CA ANZ's member magazine, Acuity which is circulated to CA ANZ's full member base, (July-Sept edition)
- Liaised with the CA ANZ Member Support team to update them on the scheme and prepared and provided a frequently asked questions guide for potential queries from members or the public
- Reviewed and updated all website information on the scheme ([scheme](#) and [PII](#)) included in member guides and information sheets

### *Online Event – AU Sharing Knowledge: Your Guide to CA ANZ's New Professional Standards Scheme – 2024 – 2030*

On 8 May 2025, the Professional Standards team held an online Sharing Knowledge webinar titled 'Your Guide to CA ANZ's New Professional Standards Scheme 2025-2030'. In the webinar CA ANZ's experts shared their knowledge and insights with members and unpacked the requirements of CA ANZ's new scheme.

An interactive question and answer session followed with panelists from CA ANZ and Aon where they answered member's questions on the scheme – how it works, what the legal landscape looks like, and why PII is vital to all public practices.

The event attracted 813 registrations and received a net promoter score of 54 indicating high member engagement and interaction.

## **B – Learning and Awareness Events**

### *Professional Standards Roadshow*

On 5 March 2025, the CA ANZ Australian Professional Standards Team hosted the annual CA ANZ Professional Standards Roadshow. This webinar provided an update on CA ANZ's requirements in relation to PII, Continuing Professional Development (CPD), Quality Review, Professional Conduct, the Tax Agent Services Act (TASA) changes and ethical standards.

The Roadshow is an annual fixture designed for leaders in public practice and includes:

- information about key CA ANZ requirements relating to CPD, professional standards scheme requirements, PII and the professional conduct framework, to help members reduce the risks to their practice
- insights into issues found in practice quality reviews
- learnings from frequent queries to the professional standards team regarding the scheme and professional standards
- tips regarding compliance activities.

1,679 members registered for the event. The webinar received a net promoter score of 35 which indicates a reasonable level of member engagement and interaction.

### *Online Event: Tax Agent Services Act Changes*

On 12 March 2025, CA ANZ hosted an online event for members to raise awareness of the new obligations of members who are subject to the *Tax Agent Services Act 2009 (TASA) Code of Professional Conduct*. The event was hosted by the CA ANZ Public Affairs Lead and included a panel of CA ANZ speakers including the Australian Leader – Tax, Superannuation and Financial Services, Manager, Member Tools & Resources, Australian Conduct Leader and a Senior Tax Trainer. The event was focused on practices with fewer than 100 employees to help inform and prepare principals for the new regulatory obligations that commenced on 30 June 2025. The regulatory changes were additional to changes to the TASA which affect how tax agents recruit and maintain employees/contractors (disqualified entities), onboard clients and manage their relationships within their practice and with peers (self and peer breach reporting). To support the changes, we also updated our Engagement Letter tool for members.

### *Aon Webinars*

During the year Aon, the preferred CA ANZ Member Benefits Partner for PII for practitioners in Australia, held two complimentary webinars for CA ANZ members.

The first webinar, held on 15 April 2025, provided insights for members looking to protect their businesses against disruptions and uncertainties by exploring key insurance considerations, terms and cover in relation to the following types of insurance:

- Professional Indemnity
- Business Pack
- Public & Products Liability
- Cyber
- Personal Accident.

A second webinar, held on 25 September 2025, focused on CA ANZ's PII obligations, including an update on scheme requirements, by CA ANZ's Manager, Member Tools and Resources.

### *Artificial Intelligence – learning and awareness creating activities*

CA ANZ is committed to supporting its members in understanding generative artificial intelligence (**AI**), its opportunities, associated risks, and the importance of remaining compliant with professional standards obligations if using generative AI technology in the course of professional activities. Throughout 2025, CA ANZ delivered a range of initiatives focused on AI education and governance for members:

- Articles, Reports and Guidance:
  - [Seven trends set to reshape the accounting profession in 2025](#): an Acuity article published in January 2025 that predicted the growth and emergence of AI as an emerging technology to improve the professional lives of accountants.

- [AI's impact on accounting: Staying ahead in the new era](#) – an Acuity article published in January 2025 that reinforces that AI is reshaping professions worldwide and that accounting is no exception. The article explores how CAs can make the most of the opportunities AI presents.
- [Artificial Intelligence Resource Centre](#) — a central hub for accessing insights, tools, guidance, and news related to AI, including the *State of AI Accounting Report 2025* and ethics/governance resources.
- [AI Fluency Playbook](#) — a comprehensive guide published in August 2025, offering case studies, prompt guides, governance frameworks, and learning pathways to help members integrate generative AI into accounting workflows.
- Training and Certification:
  - [Certificate in AI Fluency](#) — launched in April 2025, this 20-hour course includes four micro-courses and two expert-led workshops. It equips participants with generative AI skills tailored to professional practice.
  - [AI Micro-Courses](#) – available to members via the CA ANZ Store throughout 2025:
    - GenAI governance blueprint (3 CPD hours)
    - Planning for GenAI implementation in finance (5 CPD hours)
    - Ethical use of generative AI (3 CPD hours)
    - Introduction to generative AI in finance (5 CPD hours)
    - Impact of generative AI (1 CPD hour)
    - Using ChatGPT to improve productivity (1 CPD hour)
    - ChatGPT and large language models: The future of accountancy and business (1 CPD hour).

### [Small Firm, Big Impact Podcast Series](#)

CA ANZ's podcast '[Small Firm, Big Impact](#)' continued to provide factual and practical content from experts, giving chartered accountants the up-to date information they need to do their jobs.

Topics covered in Season 5 of the podcast:

- S5E1: Hear how the new President plans to represent members (17 February 2025)
- S5E2: Sustainability opportunities for your firm and clients (17 March 2025)
- S5E3: Federal Budget 2025-2026: Insights for CAs (28 March 2025)
- S5E4: Tax System Challenges: Insights from the Tax Ombudsman (8 April 2025)
- S5E5: Audit Innovation: tech-driven opportunities for smaller firms (6 May 2025)
- S5E6: Insights from the 2025 New Zealand Budget (23 May 2025)
- S5E7: CA ANZ's Professional Standards Scheme – your questions (6 June 2025)
- S5E8: What's Next for the ATO Agent Phone Line? (5 December 2025)

### *Sustainability and Climate Reporting*

Australia is one of the first countries in the world to adopt mandatory, globally aligned sustainability reporting and assurance. This poses both an opportunity and a challenge for our members in practice to support the practical implementation of the standards for their clients and for members employed by reporting entities, to support implementation by their employing organisation.

CA ANZ has a [Sustainability Management Advisory Committee](#), advising CA ANZ on emerging issues of importance for members. In 2025 we co-established the [Sustainability Reporting Community of Practice](#) in exclusive partnership with the UN Global Compact Network Australia (**UNGCNA**) and the Australian Securities Exchange (**ASX**). The Community of Practice is intended to assist our members and other professionals in business navigate emerging sustainability reporting requirements, share learnings and knowledge, and foster collaboration on sustainability reporting and assurance topics.

CA ANZ continues to provide learning opportunities to members and provisional members (being candidates enrolled in the Graduate Diploma of Chartered Accounting) on climate-related disclosures and sustainability. Some examples are provided below:

- Our [Sustainability Community](#) which has more than 4,500 members, held three webinars during 2025 on emerging sustainability related areas.
- We launched a series of sustainability [micro-courses](#) and a climate-related disclosure [certificate](#) course for members.
- In collaboration with Deloitte and RMIT we promoted a sustainability and climate-related financial reporting course “[ISSB, ASSB and Beyond](#)”. The course was designed to empower participants to identify risks, unearth opportunities, and devise strategies that tackle financial and climate sustainability challenges head-on. By providing a solid grasp of ISSB and ASSB and beyond, the course lays the groundwork for understanding and navigating evolving sustainability standards.
- We have embedded sustainability into the CA Program and made modifications to the [Sustainability for Accountants](#) elective.
- Our members have complimentary access to LinkedIn learning which provides for self-paced online learning opportunities regarding sustainability and climate change.

We have also prepared a series of climate related disclosure [information guides](#) for our members and knowledge sharing videos for our members to view on demand. CA ANZ also publishes all our [submissions](#) online and in member newsletters and on social media so members can understand key developments in sustainability reporting and assurance in Australia over the past few years.

CA ANZ held its inaugural [Sustainability Conference](#) on 25 November 2025. This conference brought together a diverse mix of international and local perspectives to explore how organisations can deliver more strategic, transparent, and decision-useful disclosures in a fast-changing global context. The conference provided thought-leading insights into the transition to a net-zero economy, covering

regulatory developments, policy shifts, and the growing role of the accounting profession in enabling sustainable outcomes.

We have embedded sustainability into our annual accounting and audit conferences, member roadshows, industry events (such as interactions with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (**IESBA**), the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (**IAASB**) and International Sustainability Standards Board (**ISSB**) and CA ANZ leader presentations to members in regions. Since 2020, CA ANZ has conducted an annual survey ([Climate and Nature Survey](#)) of members to track their awareness, understanding and needs when it comes to climate-related disclosures.

## C – Ethics Related Knowledge Sharing

### *Global Ethics Day*

CA ANZ has been recognising the Carnegie Council's Global Ethics Day since 2021. We are pleased to see an increase in members engaging with our activities every year and this year we had more than 16,000 members register for the event. This year's [webinar](#) took a panel format with expert panellists sharing real-world examples of ethical challenges and insightful ways of addressing them. The panel included:

- Ainslie van Onselen – CEO, CA ANZ
- Rob Pascoe FCA – Director and Chair of Audit and Risk at First Credit Union New Zealand
- Leigh Walker CA – Risk Management and Independence Leader for EY Oceania
- Mark McGowan – former Premier of Western Australia.

### *Quarterly Ethics Digest*

To coincide with Global Ethics Day, on 15 October 2025, CA ANZ launched a new, digital newsletter, the [Quarterly Ethics Digest](#) (**QED**). The QED is designed to be a regular communication to all members about their obligations under the CA ANZ By-Laws, including the obligation to comply with APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (**APES 110**).

The first edition features comprehensive updates on ethics-related topics, standards and professional conduct, conduct decisions and obligations for members in practice such as Practice Quality Reviews and reminders about CPD compliance and other support services that are available to members.

CA ANZ has partnered with Cranlana Centre for Ethical Leadership to bring to our members a globalised and wholistic perspective on the importance and value of ethical leadership. Cranlana, a partner of Melbourne's Monash University, is supported by the Myer Foundation and the Vincent Fairfax Foundation to bring ethical clarity to leaders in business, government and not-for-profit sectors across Australia. Cranlana's approach to ethical leadership combines moral philosophy with leadership theory, behavioural ethics, psychology and systems change to address the challenges of today and prepare for those of the future.

Cranlana assists CA ANZ to explore the “why” behind the principles of APES 110. By assisting our members to understand the reason and purpose for requirements within APES 110, we improve engagement and compliance with those principles which ultimately benefits the public interest.

### *Ethics Edition of Smaller Practices Newsletter*

Our members in smaller practices were also provided with a special edition Smaller Practices Newsletter in October 2025 focused on professional ethics to coincide with Global Ethics Day.

### *Conduct Related Articles*

During 2025, the Conduct team arranged for the following conduct articles/publications in CA ANZ Acuity magazine and on the CA ANZ website to assist members maintain and improve professional standards and behaviours:

- [Streamlining disciplinary proceedings | Acuity](#) (February 2025)
- [How to deal with difficult conversations at work | Acuity](#) (April 2025)
- [Everything CAs should know about firm events | Acuity](#) (June 2025)
- [Mandatory declarations for CAs: when to declare and self-report | Acuity](#) (June 2025)
- [How to handle client complaints effectively | Acuity](#) (September 2025)
- [Handling client monies: rules, ethical obligations and risks | Acuity](#) (October 2025)

## **D – Guidance and Regulatory Changes**

### *CA ANZ Guidance Note N1 Client Records and ownership of accounting data - update*

In response to an increase in the volume of member queries regarding ownership and possession of client data, [CA ANZ Guidance Note N1](#) – Client Records (previously Guidance Note N1 Books and Records) was revised in May 2025. The changes were focused on providing guidance to members when managing client records within cloud accounting systems and to provide clarity to members as to their legal obligations in relation to ownership of client data on accounting systems. The updated guidance provides further clarity on key areas such as data management, data rights and software ownership and access.

All members were provided a [summary](#) of the changes to the Guidance Note on 2 June 2025 and the changes featured in the Smaller Practices Update on 20 July 2025.

### *CA ANZ Regulation Changes - Updates*

In May 2025, the CA ANZ Board approved amendments to CA ANZ Regulations CR2A Professional Indemnity Insurance (CR2A), CR3 Public Practice Regulations (CR3), CR7 Continuing Professional Development (CR7), CR8 Disciplinary Procedures (CR8) and CR9 Designation, Trademark and Practice Name Terms of Use (CR9).

## **E – Improved Tools and Member Resources**

### *Professional Standards Advice Series*

During 2025, CA ANZ continued to deliver timely and practical guidance to support our members with professional standards and ethical requirements.

Articles created and shared with members during 2025 include:

- Managing Client Records in the Cloud when Changing Accountants - Updated Guidance Note N1 - 2 June 2025.
- Continuing Excellence: CPD Requirements for CA ANZ Members - 3 June 2025.
- Fortifying Trust: CA ANZ's Renewed Professional Standards Scheme signals strength and commitment – 06 June 2025.
- Member and Public Practice Obligations Article.

## F - CA ANZ Participation at Parliamentary Inquiries

CA ANZ participated in the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services inquiry focused on the oversight of the Australian Securities Investment Commission (**ASIC**), the Takeovers Panel and the Corporations Legislation.

CA ANZ's General Manager, Professional Standards appeared as a witness to the inquiry and [submitted evidence](#) at a public hearing held in Sydney on 4 March 2025.

# Increasing Consumer Protection

## A – Activities to Address Financial Abuse

Financial abuse is a damaging form of domestic violence where one partner controls the other's access to economic resources, resulting in severe long-term consequences for the victim's financial independence and well-being. Similarly, financial abuse can also occur in child-parent or individual-caregiver relationships where one party exerts financial power and control over another. CA ANZ's members have an important role to play in identifying and helping to prevent financial abuse. Financial abuse remains a very real threat for many vulnerable members of the Australian public including the elderly, people living with disability, people experiencing domestic violence and other forms of social or cultural disadvantage.

CA ANZ continues to raise awareness and support important research addressing economic and financial abuse:

- In April 2025, [CA ANZ voiced its support](#) to a pre-election promise made by the Australian Labor Party that it intended to reform the retirement savings death benefits laws to prevent family violence perpetrators profiting from their actions.
- In May 2025, CA ANZ accepted an invitation to contribute to an ongoing, multidisciplinary consultative forum established by the Australian Human Rights Commission (**AHRC**) focusing on elder financial abuse. The Project is now available to review on the AHRC [website](#).
- CA ANZ published an update to its members on Financial Abuse in the October edition of [Acuity Magazine](#). The article explored the hidden signs of financial abuse; the role accountants can play as first responders to victims and how accountants can respond with care. As a further measure in support of this, CA ANZ is partnering with academics from the University of Sydney to advance much-needed research into the detection and prevention of financial abuse.
- During the year, CA ANZ commenced discussions with Legal Aid NSW to gain a better understanding the issue and build a network of experienced professionals to assist in the development of resources for our members to identify and address suspected financial abuse of vulnerable people.
- On 24 November 2025, CA ANZ hosted a free webinar for members that explored the vital role accountants play in preventing and mitigating financial abuse by strengthening client practices

and internal processes. The webinar featured Adjunct Professor Susan Rix AM FCA, Chair of CA Advisory Group (Qld), Tania Pouwhare, Chief Executive at Good Shepherd, Nicole Brown CA, Non-executive Director at Centre for Women's Economic Safety (**CWES**) and Veronica Collins CA, Operations Manager at Elder Abuse Action Australia (**EAAA**). The webinar explored practical strategies, insights, real-world case studies and actions to help members identify and address risks.

## **B – Family Trust Distribution Tax (FTDT) Issues**

FTDT arises when a family trust (a trust that has made a family trust election (**FTE**)) makes a distribution outside the family group. Because of the complexity of the FTE rules and the compounding nature of FTDT, outstanding FTDT can result in significant liabilities for clients, including significant general interest charges (**GIC**). Distributions outside the family group are a focus area for the Australian Tax Office (**ATO**).

The ATO have been consulting with the ATO Private Groups Stewardship Group members (which includes CA ANZ) to resolve issues with FTEs and CA ANZ in turn has sought feedback from members regarding their clients' experience with FTEs and interposed entity elections (**IEEs**) to understand the impact of these issues on them and their clients. CA ANZ has also raised the awareness of the FTE issues with our members and educated them on the future consequences and limitations that FTEs and IEEs can have on private groups over time. Some examples are provided below:

- 24 June 2025 - CA ANZ Tax News reported the ATO was seeing various issues with FTEs and informed members to check that their family trust clients have records of their elections and understand all the elections that have been made and their family group before making trust distributions. CA ANZ also reached out to members to see if they had encountered family trust election issues with their clients.
- 7 August 2025 – CA ANZ held a Sharing Knowledge webinar, entitled “Family Trust Elections in Focus” and advertised the online training module Special Tax Topics 2025-2026 – Family Trust Elections. Attendees heard from the ATO representatives on what they were seeing in FTEs and learnt about best practices and obligations for managing FTEs.
- 26 August 2025 – CA ANZ Tax News included a link to the sharing knowledge webinar, the Q&As raised during the session and a link to an article Special Tax Topics 2025-2026 – Family Trust Elections.
- 2 September 2025 – CA ANZ Tax News provided an update on family trust distributions tax and the changes the ATO has made to their guidance on family trusts and Online Service for Agents FTE/IEE report.
- CA ANZ lodged a submission with Treasury on 21 November 2025 requesting targeted legislative amendments to remove the unlimited review period and deal with key issues with the FTE and FTDT provisions. The unlimited review period for FTDT can result in significant FTDT

liabilities and accrued GIC which is a disproportionate consequence of inadvertent distributions outside the group.

### **C – Amendments to the Member’s Handbook**

As at 1 July 2025 an updated version of the [Members Handbook](#) was published to members. Key updates include:

- An overview of member obligations, highlighting the Compliance Obligations set out in By-Law 38A. This includes obligations to comply with the By-Laws and Regulations and the applicable standards and pronouncements of the standard setters applicable to the member’s professional activities
- Member Self-Disclosure FAQs, which assists members with understanding their self-disclosure obligations under the CA ANZ By-Laws
- Complaints and Professional Conduct FAQs which assists with understanding the complaints process and Conduct Rules.

The Member Self-Disclosure FAQs and Complaints and Professional Conduct FAQs are also located in the Member’s Handbook and complaints and self-reporting sections on CA ANZ’s website ([Dealing with a Complaint | Mentoring and Support | CA ANZ; Obligation to self-report and to report others | CA ANZ](#)). We note these were included as recommendations from the Professional Conduct Framework Review.

### **D – Consultations & Policy Submissions**

CA ANZ advocates in the public good on policy matters that are relevant to our members, their clients and communities. Policy positions are advocated through submissions, consultation and engagement with governments, regulators and standard setters. The main objectives of our advocacy are to:

- Achieve better policy outcomes in the public good
- Uphold standards and trust in the profession
- Influence sound legal and regulatory reform
- Create value for our members, their clients and communities
- Reinforce our position as trusted advisers with government and other key stakeholders.

The major areas we advocate on are tax, superannuation, financial advice, small business, reporting and assurance, regulation of the profession, ethics, anti-money laundering, sustainability, education, skills and migration, and diversity, equity and inclusion.

More information about our advocacy approach and focus areas is included on our website [here](#). During 2025 our submissions have included the following areas:

- Sustainability
  - [Joint submission on ASIC’s CP 380 Sustainability Reporting consultation](#) – (January 2025)

- [Submission to the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures](#) – (February 2025)
- [Joint submission on Sustainable investment product labels](#) - (July 2025)
- [Submission on Enhanced Clarity and Compliance in Modern Slavery Act](#) – (September 2025)
- [Submission on Implementing Australia’s Strategy for Nature 2024-2030](#) – (October 2025)
- [Submission of sixth communication of engagement with UN Global Compact](#) – (October 2025)
- Ethics
  - [Submission on proposed revisions to APES 110](#) – (May 2025)
  - [Submission on Australian Ethics Standards for Sustainability Assurance](#) (Including International Independence Standards) – (May 2025)
  - [Joint submission on IAASB’s narrow scope amendments on use of experts](#) – (July 2025)
- Education and Education Funding
  - [Submission on the Draft International Education and Skills Strategic Framework](#) – (March 2025)
  - [Submission to the Department of Education on Needs-based Funding](#) – (March 2025)
- Immigration
  - [Joint submission on review of the points test](#) – (March 2025)

## **E – Tranche 2 Anti-Money Laundering Reforms**

Tranche 2 Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter-Terrorism Financing (CTF) reforms take effect in Australia from 1 July 2026 and apply to CA ANZ members in public practice offering designated services. CA ANZ has proactively been helping to raise awareness and prepare members for their new regulatory obligations. Below are some of the activities undertaken:

- Events:
  - Regional forums in Queensland and New South Wales (August and September 2025)
  - [Sharing Knowledge Session](#) on AML/CTF Reforms, AUSTRAC presented (1619 registered, 744 attended live) (September 2025)
  - CPA, CA ANZ and IPA Joint Webinar – AML/CTF: [Where now? Where to?](#) – Co-hosted with AUSTRAC (2900 registered, 1700 attended live) (November 2025)
  - Regular updates to member committee meetings.
- Training

- Released an introductory [micro-course](#) on the regulatory reforms, free for members (October 2025).
- Acuity Articles
  - [Why ESG must assess money laundering](#) (February March 2025)
  - [Crackdown on money laundering](#) (February March 2025)
  - [Can you spot these common money-laundering techniques?](#) (July September 2025)
  - [Casting a wide net](#) (July September 2025).
- Communications and Web Articles
  - [Submission on new AML/CTF Rules – second consultation](#) –a brief summary of the joint feedback submission made to AUSTRAC between CA ANZ and the Institute of Public Accountants (IPA) as part of the second round of public consultation (July 2025)
  - [Are you captured by Australia’s AML/CTF reforms?](#) – (September 2025)
  - [Anti-money laundering counter-terrorism financing legislation](#) –an understanding of the legislative framework around AML/CTF obligations. (October 2025)
  - LinkedIn fortnightly awareness campaign commenced in early November 2025, proffering tips for members to get ready over next 8 months.
- Tools and Resources
  - [Australian’s AML/CTF reforms Questions and Answers](#) - ready reckoner for members to get answers to the most common questions raised about the regulatory reforms (October 2025)
  - [AML/CTF Program Project Plan for Professional Accountants](#) – this article provides members with a suggested project plan to be ready for their compliance obligations. (November 2025)
  - [Smaller practices web page](#) – provides an important summary of members services that are captured under the regulatory reforms.
  - [Sharing Knowledge Videos](#) – available for members on demand to stay abreast of the reforms and how to prepare.

## **F - Public Practice Program**

CA ANZ requires members who wish to obtain a certificate of public practice (CPP), evidencing the right to offer public accountancy services to the public, to complete the Public Practice Program (PPP) (or an alternative approved course). The PPP consists of two parts – an online learning component and a two-day workshop, led by an experienced public practitioner. The program is designed to prepare members for leadership positions in public practice and provide new practitioners with essential practice management skills and an understanding of their regulatory requirements.

In February 2025 we launched a new digital platform for the PPP to enhance the member's learning experience.

Following an internal review in April 2025, CA ANZ determined that full exemptions from the PPP based on completion of an alternative approved course will not be available from July 2026 and that, to ensure all principals in public practice have a consistent level of knowledge of public practice requirements, including scheme compliance matters, all members applying for a CPP must, as a minimum, complete the online component of the PPP.

### **G - Building trust in the Profession – 'Going Further'**

As advised in our 2023 APSR, on 7 February 2024, CA ANZ released 'Going Further', a roadmap to enhanced trust and accountability for the profession. 'Going Further' demonstrates CA ANZ's commitment to ensuring the highest standards of professional ethics as an important part of instilling public confidence in the expertise, professionalism and integrity of the CA designation and the profession.

Since the update provided in the 2024 APSR, CA ANZ are pleased to report that all actions for CA ANZ are now complete with one minor exception. We note that one item, to extend affiliate membership beyond principals in practice to all employees, was not progressed. This decision was made after consultation with stakeholders which determined that firms policies on ethical behaviour are aligned to relevant professional and ethical standards and apply to all professional staff and that notwithstanding non-CA professional staff below partner level are not members, they are subject to the firm's internal codes of conduct and disciplinary procedures.

### **H – Professional Conduct Framework Review (PCFR) Update**

In the last 12 months, we are pleased to announce that we have taken significant inroads to addressing the recommendations from the PCFR.

#### **Matters addressed in the last 12 months:**

- *Publication of Guidance on Discreditable Conduct and Update Self-Reporting Guidance materials*
- *Implement Conduct Information Handling Protocol*  
Refer to the discussion regarding updates to the Members Handbook at 2.1.2C.
- *Disciplinary Tribunal and Appeals Council Chairs to be legally qualified*  
A senior legal practitioner with extensive administrative law experience was appointed as Disciplinary Tribunal Chair from 1 February 2026. The Appeals Council Chair has been legally qualified for some time.
- *Information Sharing arrangements with other regulatory agencies and bodies*  
CA ANZ and relevant regulators have regular engagement and, as a result of By-Law amendments and clarifications to legislative provisions, have constructive information-sharing

arrangements in place. CA ANZ supports and actively advocates for early information sharing with the Tax Practitioners Board as proposed under the Prescribed Disciplinary Body regime.

## Operating the professional standards scheme

### A – Online Tool and Frequently Asked Questions for CPD Exemptions

CA ANZ Regulations recognise that eligible members may, from time to time, need a CPD exemption (for example, if working part time or on parental leave). In July 2025, CA ANZ released a new tool for members: the [CPD Exemption Calculator](#). The calculator is an informative and user-friendly online tool designed to assist members with calculating their own CPD exemption. Once complete, members save their calculation and supporting evidence with their other CPD records ready for submission if they are selected for a CPD monitoring review.

This online tool empowers members to calculate their own CPD requirements without, in the majority of cases, needing to submit an application to CA ANZ under Regulation CR7.

Simultaneously, we issued an updated [CPD FAQ Guide](#) for members offering clarity and support around CPD obligations.

We included further details regarding why the ethics requirement was introduced and reinforced its importance. We also included a section on CPD exemptions and the newly created CPD Exemption calculator.

We used this as an opportunity to advise members about what they should do if they are selected for a CPD monitoring review, to encourage them to respond promptly even in instances where they feel they may be non-compliant. The FAQ guide presents examples of scenarios, such as if the member had not maintained their records, had lost them, or if they know they have a shortfall, to guide members' expectations.

### *CPD Monitoring Process Improvement Project*

In 2025, CA ANZ undertook a comprehensive internal review of its CPD monitoring processes, with the objective of enhancing consistency, accuracy, and timeliness across both the Australian and New Zealand Professional Standards teams. The review identified, assessed, and prioritised recommendations aimed at strengthening the program. Upon completion of the initiative in 2026, the anticipated outcomes include:

- A more automated and efficient monitoring process, improving both the teams' and members' experience
- Increased use of technology in CPD monitoring including records collection and review, enabling further increases in the sample size of members selected for review.

To refine and support the implementation, CA ANZ plans to engage a behavioural psychologist in FY 2026 to assist in developing more persuasive and effective member communications, with the goal of improving responsiveness and compliance in all areas of our monitoring activities.

## **B – Automated CPP follow up**

To assist our CPP compliance monitoring program, the membership subscription process for 2025 included additional data collection and data matching processes to more efficiently identify members providing accounting services to the public for reward without holding a CPP. An affirmative response to the survey question indicates the member is required, under the CA ANZ By-Laws, to hold a CPP. If a member responds yes to the question and our member database, Salesforce, indicates the member doesn't hold a CPP:

1. the member receives an automated email containing information about CPP requirements and a link to apply for a CPP; and
2. a case is created in Salesforce alerting the Professional Standards team to potential non-compliance. The team follow up the matter with the member.

Members practising as public accountants without holding a CPP commit an offence under the CA ANZ By-Laws and are subject to referral to the Professional Conduct Committee for disciplinary action and potentially, sanctions, including fines, suspension or termination of membership.

As a result of the new process, 359 members were identified as potentially requiring a CPP. Of those 359 members:

- 209 were issued with a CPP
- 7 were approved for a CPP exemption on grounds of holding a Public Practice Certificate with CPA Australia
- 6 submitted CPP applications which are currently being processed
- 11 resigned from CA ANZ membership
- 3 remain with the Professional Conduct Committee for resolution
  - 1 referral is currently being assessed prior to formal investigation
  - 2 referrals are currently under formal investigation
- 123 were determined to not require a CPP (i.e. had incorrectly answered the question as part of the subscription process)

### **C - Follow up with non-compliant PII policy holders**

CA ANZ's member benefits partner, Aon, provides CA ANZ with reports indicating which policy holders who are CA ANZ members have less than \$2,000,000 PII (the minimum required under our regulation CR2A). The March 2025 report identified 18 members had a PII limit less than \$2,000,000. Ten of the 18 are in run off cover so their PII levels could not be increased as their cover must transfer over at the member's existing levels. Aon's practice is to liaise with policy holders with less than \$2,000,000 cover and get the policy returned to compliance.

We note the number of non-compliant policies has reduced significantly from the almost 40 members who had non-complying PII policies in early 2024.

During 2026, we will continue to work collaboratively with Aon and other brokers to monitor and further improve compliance rates with respect to PII.

### **D - Review of Certificate of Currency (CoC) documents**

CA ANZ requires all CPP holders to submit details and CoC for PII at the time of issuance of the CPP. During their membership, CPP holders PII details may be reviewed for compliance. As outlined in our 2024 APSR, we continue to implement improvements to our assessment of member compliance with CR2A. In 2025 this included:

1. Amending the current scheme questionnaire process to require all practices to upload their certificate of currency for compliance review. This was a substantial IT project as security and cloud storage issues needed to be considered and worked through before implementing the changes.
2. Examining a sample for compliance (refer below for the outcomes).
3. Completing a project that included building an artificial intelligence (AI) driven proto-type to assess 100% of the certificates received for compliance with CR2A.

In respect of item 2, from May – December 2025 we reviewed a sample of CoCs, checking the following to ensure compliance with CR 2A requirements:

- The level of PII cover based on the highest engagement fee reported in the capping questionnaire.
- PII cover type i.e. if they have cost-in-addition or cost inclusive and if their answer in the questionnaire and in the PII policy both agree.
- If the cover type selected was cost inclusive, confirmed if they had the 25% extra sum insured.
- Checked their largest excess/deductible to determine that it is less than either of the two amounts per CR2A.5e(ii).
- Checked the PII policy is for a period not less than a full year.

Of that sample we found approximately 10% of policies were non-compliant. Indications of non-compliance was broadly split into the two categories below:

1. Engagement fee is higher than \$100,000 which indicated over \$2,000,000 cover is needed.

2. Questionnaire states costs-in-addition but certificate states costs inclusive, or questionnaire says cost inclusive but no additional 25%, or the policy was silent regarding costs.

The Scheme Compliance Team contacted scheme participants to discuss the identified non-compliance. Participants were asked to arrange appropriate PII cover within 30 days and to provide us with a copy of their CoC, evidencing the upgraded PII. In accordance with paragraph 2A.6(d) of CR 2A, a member's CPP is automatically cancelled after 30 days if they unreasonably fail to hold a complying PII policy.

Of the non-compliant policy-holders:

- 20% subsequently upgraded their PII Cover
- 65% subsequently corrected their questionnaire response (i.e. had incorrectly captured the cover of their policy when completing the Capping Questionnaire)
- 15% have not yet responded. We continue to try and make contact with these members. After all reasonable attempts have been made, the practice representatives will be referred to Professional Conduct for disciplinary action for failure to respond to reasonable requests from CA ANZ and / or providing accounting services without a CPP.

#### *Artificial Intelligence Pilot – CoC Automation*

In respect of item 3 above we completed a pilot project leveraging AI to review CoCs for participants PII policies.

The objective of the pilot was to develop an insurer-agnostic AI solution capable of reading PDF versions of CoCs provided by members and verifying that complying insurance coverage was in place.

While the pilot demonstrated that bespoke AI models tailored to specific insurers or brokers achieved high accuracy (exceeding 90%), the development of a truly insurer-agnostic single solution proved unsuccessful. Significant variability in CoC formats and design across the industry prevented the creation of a single model capable of reliably interpreting all documents. We are currently exploring the feasibility of developing dedicated models for individual insurers or brokers. In the meantime, CoC sampling will continue as outlined above.

#### **E - CA ANZ Process Improvements for PSC levy payments and review of data on member management system**

In early 2025, CA ANZ undertook a comprehensive review of systems and processes for determining PSC levy payments, with a strong focus on enhancing accuracy and improving the integrity of information within our member management system, Salesforce.

This initiative was prompted by an error in some prior years' calculations that we identified in 2024, resulting in a payment to the PSC. We note the matter was reported to the PSC promptly and viewed as an opportunity to strengthen our processes and implement best practice improvements. As part of this review, we engaged our outsourced internal auditors, Crowe, to conduct an independent assessment and provide assurance on the robustness of our approach. In addition, we continue to follow

the PSC's "Guidance Note on Fees Payable and Assurance Reporting" and calculate the levy on the basis outlined in the guidance to ensure full alignment with regulatory expectations.

These actions reflect our commitment to continuous improvement, transparency, and maintaining the highest standards of compliance for the benefit of our members.

## **F – Improvement to the Quality Review Process**

The CA ANZ Practice Quality Review (**PQR**) program is an important part of CA ANZ's education and compliance monitoring function. Reviews are conducted by CA ANZ to ensure the observance of high standards of practice and professional conduct by CA ANZ members in public practice. The purpose of any review is to ascertain that the system of quality management (SQM) established by a practice/firm conforms to the quality management standards applicable to CA ANZ members and that non-conformity is remediated. The currently applicable standards are:

- Auditing Standard ASQM 1 Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements (ASQM 1)
- APES 320 Quality Management for Firms that provide Non-Assurance Services (APES 320).

CA ANZ has designed the Quality Review Program (**QRP**), including the reviews of the large firms, to conform with our membership obligations as a member of the International Federation of Accountants (**IFAC**). This includes consideration of the audit inspection program of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (**ASIC**).

The FY 2026 QPR plan includes the provision of additional resources in QPR team. We note that our program has been expanded to include a consideration of known and emerging risks (e.g. unauthorised / unsupervised Artificial Intelligence Use and internal training Academic Integrity).

CA ANZ hosted a CPP Connect Session for its Australian members on 4 June 2025. The Connect Session focused on risks in practice, lessons from Practice Quality Reviews and was hosted by the CA ANZ Quality Review Manager. Over 2,100 registrants attended the event with a net promoter score of 48.

## **G – Approach to Large Firm Quality Reviews**

During 2025, CA ANZ sought to increase the comparability and specificity with which large firm reviews are conducted. We also expanded the scope of these reviews. Our checklist for large firm reviews was updated and expanded to ensure all elements of ASQM 1 and APES 320 are included. In addition, the reviewer is directed to obtain information in relation the following specific areas:

- partner disciplinary matters;
- how differences of professional opinion between partners are resolved;
- policies in relation to confidentiality;
- firm culture, including the results of any employee surveys or exit interviews to understand the firm culture;

- the firm's sign off processes and procedures for compliance of their SQM with ASQM 1 and APES 320;
- the existence and outcomes of any regulatory investigations;
- how the firm manages conflicts of interest;
- use of AI tools, reviewing associated policies and procedures;
- policies in relation to personnel management and internal training;
- independence considerations arising from ASIC's report;
- completion of PCAOB returns or ASIC returns for auditors;
- audits of unlisted investments (valuation assertion);
- firm transparency reports and if these include a notification or disclosure event/s; and
- family trust declarations.

#### **H – Professional Conduct Committee Investigations of Academic Integrity Issues involving members**

The CA ANZ Professional Conduct Framework Review in FY23 considered, in part the effectiveness of the internal processes for identifying and referring CA Program academic integrity non-compliance under the CA ANZ disciplinary framework. Exercising its discretion to initiate an investigation on information, during the reporting period the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) investigated academic integrity by members including in relation to the completion of CA Program online quizzes. As a result of the investigation, a number of individual members self-disclosed that they had been found to have engaged in, and been sanctioned by their employer for, historical answer sharing, principally in the period 2016 – 2019.