

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Financial System Division

Question No: 250

Topic: Professional Standards for Financial Advisers

Reference: Written

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

1. At what stage is the development of the new standard-setting body for professional standards for financial advisers?
2. At what stage is the appointment of the inaugural board members?
3. Has consultation been undertaken on who the board members should be? Who has Treasury consulted with on this?
4. What involvement has the Minister's office had on the appointment of these board members?
5. Do you expect to have the standard-setting body fully operational by 30 June 2017?

Answer:

1. The body has been named the Financial Adviser Standards and Ethics Authority (FASEA) and is incorporated as a Commonwealth company limited by guarantee. Minister O'Dwyer has announced the inaugural board.

2. Minister O'Dwyer announced the inaugural board members of the FASEA on 10 April 2017. The board members are:

- Ms Catherine Walter AM (Chair)
- Ms Deborah Kent
- Ms Carolyn Bond AO
- Dr Mark Brimble
- Mr Matthew Rowe
- Ms Catriona Lowe
- Dr Simon Longstaff AO
- Mr Steve Somogyi
- Mr Michael O'Neill

The chair has been appointed for a term of four years. The remaining board members are appointed for terms varying from two to three years.

3. Yes. Nominations for the board were sought from 13 key stakeholders that represent Australian Financial Service licensees, practitioners and consumers. Nominations were sought for members with financial services experience, consumer advocacy experience, an ethicist and an academic. Nominations for the board were received from a wide range of stakeholders.

4. Minister O'Dwyer is responsible for making board appointments. Treasury briefed the Minister.
5. The body is expected to be operational in mid-2017.