

2024 AGM

Questions not addressed at
the Meeting

2024 AGM – Questions not addressed at the meeting

Following are responses to questions submitted by CPA Australia members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which were not addressed during the meeting. The questions were submitted via the AGM microsite, either in advance or during the meeting, or were taken on notice by the Chair during the meeting.

This list does not include questions that relate to an individual member's personal circumstances. In those cases, we have responded directly to the member.

For answers to questions that were addressed during the course of the meeting, please refer to the AGM recording on the website.

Questions received in advance

Member: Leo Tanner

It appears the global recognition via MRAs of CPAA is diminishing, as expired MRAs are either not being renewed or are recognized in a way that involves essentially going through the whole qualification process again. An example of this is CPA Canada or HKICPA. What is CPAA doing to maintain global portability of qualification?

CPA Australia has mutual recognition agreements and membership pathway arrangements in place with more than 25 professional accounting bodies in 20 countries and regions around the world, including Africa, the Americas, Asia, Oceania and Europe. These agreements enable CPA Australia members to gain credentials with international professional bodies and provide members of other professional bodies with a pathway to CPA Australia membership.

In making these agreements, we seek to set terms that are mutually beneficial to members of both organisations. All pathway agreements are subject to review based on changes in syllabus, membership and practical experience requirements. We remain committed to improving our pathways and create more opportunities for members.

CPA Australia's Mutual Recognition Agreement with CPA Canada expired on 30 June 2021. While there have been discussions with CPA Canada, we have been unable to reach agreement on terms that are to the benefit of current and prospective CPA Australia members. There are no discussions underway at present, however we will look for an opportunity to revisit these negotiations at a future date.

While we no longer have an MRA with CPA Canada, we offer a pathway to CPA membership for CPA Canada full members, including Certified Management Accountants Canada, Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants and Certified General Accountants Canada legacy members. [Details are available on the website.](#)

With respect to the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA), we can confirm that [our Mutual Recognition Agreement](#) is still in effect and will continue to run until its expiry in June 2025. We are in active discussions with HKICPA to renew this MRA.

Member: Wendy Forbes-Pere

To provide training in certain accounting packages and other training development free of charge or at a normal rate.

CPA Australia continues to increase our online education offering. Our CPD offer provides members with access to a wide range of workshop, webinars, courses, micro-credentials and virtual programs.

We aim to improve members' career prospects with the latest in-demand skills, so they are equipped to deliver to the changing needs of organisations and the global business environment.

A number of our professional development offerings are complimentary, including Professional Ethics in Focus, Monthly Tax Update webinars and Careers Suite online courses that are free of charge for members and MY FIRM. MY FUTURE. courses that are complimentary for public practitioners.

We don't currently offer courses or training in specific accounting software packages, as these are commercial products that have their own training component.

We do however have a large portfolio of Excel-related training, including online courses, recorded webinars and workshops/virtual classrooms. Please note that these are paid offers, however, many of them are available as part of our mid-year PD sale that runs until 15 July 2024.

Depending on your area of interest, we also offer courses in Artificial Intelligence and ESG as well as accredited project Management and Agile courses. There are also paid workshops and virtual classrooms covering Structured Query Language (SQL) for data analytics, Microsoft Power BI, Python and R programming.

Member: Jefferson Chen

When I look at page 64, it seems all climate-related risks are transitional. Don't we have any physical risks such extreme weather impacting on employees and members?

CPA Australia's first scenario analysis in relation to climate-related risks and opportunities took place in 2022. Both transitional and physical risks were discussed and analysed, when those risks were then ranked the most material risks were all transitional. It is these risks that we currently report on. As part of maturing our approach to climate-related impacts we are planning on re-doing our scenario analysis in 2025/2026 as part of re-baselining our emissions. This will include looking at location-based risks as both the transitional and physical risks for or operations, employees and members will vary by location.

Member: George Souris

When the magazine in the black came to my letter box physically - I read most of it. Now digitally I don't. Was that the intention? Or just to save money?

While adopting a digital-first approach was always part of our long-term strategy, INTHEBLACK magazine transitioned to a digital publication in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Restrictions during 2020 meant that physical mail was not being processed or delivered by postal agencies in a timely manner. The INTHEBLACK digital magazine contains the same high-quality and valuable content as the print version did, as well as offering a more interactive experience through resources such as audiocasts, podcasts and video, and hyperlinks to further reading. It is also more sustainable.

Member: Rudyard Sam Soobaroyen

Can CPA Australia organise quarterly networking/social catch-ups in venues in Melbourne and special events at Christmas and mid-year to allow for CPA members to come together?

Thank you for your interest in attending networking events with fellow CPA Australia members in Melbourne. CPA Australia's Victorian Division run a full calendar of events throughout the year. Most of the events focus on delivering quality and contextualised professional development for our Victorian Membership base, but there are some that are designed for networking opportunities. For example, in 2024, the Victorian Division have scheduled a range of in-person events including a Lunar New Year celebration, International Women's Day Lunch 2024, South-East Metro Lunch at Southern Golf Club 'Adapting Leadership & Culture from Sport to the Business World', Sustainability and Ethics lunch on 'Firm Culture & Governance' with the Chair of IESBA Project, Gabriela Figueiredo Dias and the Public Practice retreat in Lorne.

Depending on your location and your area of interest, you may be interested in some of the events planned for the second half of 2024:

June: Emerging Leaders Network Committee Event / Third Age Network (TAN) Masters Lunch / SME Meet the Committee / Corporate Committee Event – Panel discussion featuring CEO Chris Freeland and CFO George Kapitelli

September: Annual Research Lecture at Melbourne University

October-November: Diwali dinner, Member Engagement Evenings - Goulburn Valley / Ballarat / Geelong

December: TAN Masters Christmas Lunch

Most of the Melbourne-based events are held on Level 20 of our Southbank office. The Victorian Division also co-ordinates a number of committees who represent the different industry sectors or member cohorts. These committees, which also organise events, include:

- Emerging Leaders Network
- Innovation & Technology Committee
- Public Practice Committee
- Public Sector and Not-for-profit Committee
- Small Medium Enterprise Committee
- Third Age Network Committee
- Victorian Corporate Committee
- Womens' Committee
- Ballarat Branch Committee
- Geelong Branch Committee
- Gippsland Branch Committee
- South East Metro Branch Committee
- Sunraysia Branch Committee

If you would like more information on individual events or joining a committee, please contact the Victorian State Manager Meg Boers on meg.boers@cpaaustralia.com.au

Member: Rehan Ahmed

Will there be changes in the future for the CPA program?

The CPA Program is central to our education offering and we are working to ensure that it remains relevant and responsive to the profession. One of CPA Australia's strategic initiatives is the CPA Program Transformation which will review the Foundations and CPA Programs and ensure they are fit-for-purpose and serving the needs of current and prospective members. As part of this review, we will be looking at ways to upgrade the Learning Management System (LMS) platform to improve the learner experience for online courses.

Member: Aditya Goel

Firstly, I would like to record my appreciation for CPA Australia. My journey in Australia started last year with the help of CPA Australia staff and I am grateful for all the support I received. Following on from that, I still have the question from last year. Does CPA Australia plan on formalising any committee addressing the integration of migrant professionals who are CPA Members. Considering not every member has the skills to attain the informal support I did, it is something which I think is of utmost importance and needs to be addressed.

We are pleased that you have received the professional support you need from CPA Australia and appreciate your interest in ensuring that other members receive the same level of support. CPA Australia's Member Engagement Committee has a formal role to advise the Board in relation to matters involving member engagement with all of CPA Australia's members. This includes professional development opportunities and courses. At a local level, the respective membership Divisions in Australia each co-ordinate a number of committees to represent the different industry sectors and member cohorts. These committees organise networking and professional development events throughout the year and include groups focused on local branches, emerging leaders, women in leadership, public practice, the not-for-profit sector and so on. For more information on the committees and discussion groups in your division, please contact your local divisional office. You are always welcome to contact your Divisional Council President and suggest any new Committee or Discussion Group ideas for your Divisional Council to discuss.

Questions received by text

Member: Sharon Ditchburn

Having regard to confidentiality, there is however a need to provide confirmation of our membership of CPA Australia to support other activities such as certification of documents. Is it possible to have a public register with simply our name and membership number. Perhaps location in terms of country, but I don't believe that is necessary.

To protect the privacy of individual members, we do not publish a public register of CPA Australia members. In line with CPA Australia's Constitution, we are able to confirm an individual's membership status, including designation if asked. Members who require documentation to confirm their membership of CPA Australia can use the certificate of membership which they receive upon advancing to fully qualified CPA status. Members can also generate a Letter of Good Standing as a self-serve option via the CPA Australia website, or request a more detailed Letter of Good standing by contacting our Member Services team on 1300 73 73 73 (within Australia) or +61 3 7034 9770 (outside of Australia), or by email at memberservice@cpaaustralia.com.au

Member: Pasqualina Gilmour

CPA had made extensive cuts to the “free” webinars being offered. As a sole practitioner and as an auditor I find it financially challenging to find suitable training that is required by ASIC and the ATO. Will there be more support for auditors? I find that most of the training, webinars and Congress are directed towards tax practitioners rather than auditors. I feel that my speciality is not supported enough by the professional body I have been a member of for over 20 years.

Following on from my previous question, it is very costly to attend in person training when you live in a remote area such as the Northern Territory. For example, to attend a one day course involves travelling for three days - arrive the day before, attend the training and leave the next day. This is because the availability of flights is very limited.

Engaging with members is a priority for CPA Australia and we aim to deliver webinars and other professional development opportunities that are relevant and engaging. In 2023, CPA Australia held 1197 events in total, including 620 virtual events.

There were marginally fewer webinars in 2023 for a few reasons. Firstly, the transition to the Member Management and Finance project (MMF) impacted our online registration and delivery platform, which meant that we were unable to hold as many webinars in the first half of the year.

In addition, 2023 was the first completely unrestricted COVID free year and there was a desire from Divisional Councils as well as members to return to face-to-face events where possible. We try to strike a balance between in-person and online events, including hybrid events that enable members outside the host location to engage online. As the president and chair, Professor Dale Pinto commented at the AGM, we are working towards a goal of ‘one CPA’ in which every member has access to the same services, regardless of their location.

Included in the virtual events we held in 2023 were 17 complimentary webinars on Policy & Advocacy issues, as well as 12 webinars for members working in public practice.

Some of the webinars that we held in 2023 and the first half of 2024 that may be relevant to members working in audit were:

- *Climate Risk webinar – What external auditors need to consider* – Watch the webinar [here](#)
- InFocus - 2023 Reporting & Audit Updates
- Sustainability & Ethics–lunch with the IESBA Chair
- Firm Culture & Governance - IESBA Project

Upcoming webinars planned for 2024 include:

- 11 June 2024 – *InFocus - 2024 Reporting & Audit Updates*. Register [here](#).
- Last quarter of 2024 – *ISSA 5000 Sustainability Assurance*. It will be advertised in due course via CPA Update.

In addition to free webinars, we also have free audit tools and resources to assist our members in audit. Here are some of the links to our website where members can browse and select audit tools that are of interest to them:

- Audit and assurance - [Tools, templates and resources for audit, review and assurance engagements](#), including tools for SMSF auditors.
- Public Practice - [System of Quality Management Tool for firms providing audit and assurance services](#)

We also offer a range of other paid courses that may be of interest. Many of these online self-paced courses are available as part of [our mid-year PD sale](#) that runs until 15 July 2024. including the three micro-credentials relating to audit:

- Disruption and Audit Risk Management,
- Effective Remote Auditing
- Emerging Technology in Auditing

I have asked two questions. Why have they not been answered?

We apologise that the Board did not answer your questions on the night. We experienced a technical problem that prevented the final set of questions submitted online from being sent through to the moderator and the Board. The Chair of the meeting was made aware of this and apologised at the conclusion of the meeting. All questions that were not addressed at the meeting have been answered in this document.

Member: D

What member details are being provided to external providers and which entities are the member details being supplied with?

CPA Australia's Privacy Policy outlines our privacy practices relating to member's personal information. You can view our [Privacy Policy on the website](#).

CPA Australia complies with privacy obligations and legislation in the respective jurisdictions in which we operate. We undertake security and privacy impact assessments with external providers including the provision of contractual obligations to ensure they comply with relevant privacy laws. We also include privacy obligations in the contracts with our third-party suppliers.

We only disclose that information to external providers as is reasonably necessary for them to fulfil the service they are contracted to provide, and in accordance with the consent provided by members. This may include university and other educational providers involved with or engaged by CPA Australia for the Foundation and CPA Programs, or other professional development programs including exam service providers. We may provide a member's contact details to service providers that we engage for use in direct marketing. We do not sell personal information to third parties.

If a member is involved in a complaint, disciplinary or professional conduct proceedings, their personal information may be disclosed to:

- the member/s named in the complaint;
- parties involved in the dispute resolution process;
- member/s of disciplinary panels, and
- transcript recording service providers.

What's the purpose of the state presidents and advisers, when most members don't speak to them and don't hear from them, except the head office marketing materials that the state presidents read out in videos or email to members?

Divisional Presidents play an integral role in CPA Australia. CPA Australia has 13 Divisional Councils, including eight State and Territory based councils in Australia and five international Divisions. Divisional Councils are made up of members who volunteer their time and expertise and are elected by members in their local Division. Each Divisional Council represents members from their local area and industry sector and co-ordinates local discussion groups and a range of member engagement activities. The Presidents of each Council come together to form the Council of Presidents who provide an important two-way link between members and the CPA Australia Board. Divisional Presidents send regular newsletters to members in their division containing news and information that is relevant to their local networks. Divisional Council Presidents actively encourage direct feedback from members and you can connect with your Divisional President anytime by email [here](#).

Questions taken on notice during the meeting

Member: John Gill

How many new members have been accepted via the new Pathways program?

Approximately 935 new members have joined CPA Australia as part of the Experienced Based Pathway since the pilot program was launched in 2022.

What membership growth plans does CPA Australia have for New Zealand?

CPA Australia's membership has continued to grow – we now have more than 173,000 members in over 100 countries, including 3026 in New Zealand to 31 December 2023. This compares to 2871 to end of 2022.

We agree that membership is not growing at the rate we would like. There are several reasons for this, one of the main ones being the declining number of students choosing to study an accounting degree. This is a global problem, not confined to New Zealand or Australia.

Our new strategy includes a goal to address attracting new members through new initiatives to engage young people and professionals from adjacent disciplines. This includes:

- the transformation of the CPA Program and Foundation pathway to create a best-in-class, digital first offering.
- the Member Ambassador Program, which sees fully qualified members visiting high schools, TAFEs and universities to speak to students about the career opportunities that a career in accounting can provide. We currently have 108 Member Ambassadors, including 18 in New Zealand.
- Responsive Membership Pathways that will create new and dynamic membership pathways for business and finance professionals to study the CPA Program.
- Dual pathways initiatives and mutual agreements.