

# POLICY & CORPORATE AFFAIRS

## POLICY BULLETIN

DATE: 5 March 2018

---

### 1.0 Update Professional Standards for Financial Advisers (FASEA)

CPA Australia recently met with Dr Deen Sanders, CEO of the Financial Adviser Standards and Ethics Authority (FASEA), on behalf of members to find out more about its approach to developing the professional standards framework for financial advisers. The new framework will commence on 1 January 2019 and FASEA have been declared the body responsible for:

- approving degrees or higher or equivalent qualifications for new financial advisers
- determining the bridging course requirements for existing financial advisers
- approving and/or administering an exam for all financial advisers
- determining the supervision requirements for the professional year for new financial advisers
- determining the continuous professional development (CPD) requirements, and
- setting a code of ethics.

FASEA's [Proposed Guidance on Qualification Pathways for Existing Advisers](#), released in December proposes a very narrow qualification pathway for existing Financial Advisers to transition to the new framework. This proposed approach had resulted in generalised anxiety across the financial planning sector, including for many of our members who are financial advisers.

CPA Australia highlighted the following concerns to FASEA at the meeting:

- the need for flexible transition pathways for existing Financial Advisers, including the recognition of qualifications in related disciplines
- how 'equivalent' qualifications may be recognised and accredited, and
- the development of the Code of Ethics and how it may interact with other existing Codes.

The key message from FASEA was not to be alarmed by what was previously proposed. It was designed as a first step in the conversation and there will be further changes and consultation, with the next phase of these proposals likely to be released in the near future.

FASEA also noted:

- that they would like to see these reforms have a positive impact both upon the financial planning sector and on the confidence of the general public in financial planning advice
- while the reforms will require all financial advisers to do something, this will vary depending on the financial advisers previous education and training, and
- they are mindful of the goal that successful consumer outcomes are more likely if requirements can deliver benefits to financial advice and are also culturally effective in influencing changes to behavior.

We will provide a further update and seek your input and feedback when FASEA issue the next consultation papers.

In the interim, information is available on the [CPA Australia website](#) or for further information or clarification, you can contact Keddie Waller, Senior Policy Adviser – Financial Planning or Michael Davison, Senior Policy Adviser – Superannuation.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Dignam  
General Manager – Policy & Corporate Affairs

## RESOURCES

### Policy & Corporate Affairs – Professional resources

CPA Australia continues to represent its members and has an ongoing relationship with key regulatory, statutory and professional standards bodies.

Current consultations and CPA Australia policy submissions can be found at:  
<https://www.cpaaustralia.com.au/media/consultations-and-submissions>

Other professional resources can be found at: <https://www.cpaaustralia.com.au/professional-resources>

### Policy team contacts

<b>Head of Policy</b>	Paul Drum FCPA	<a href="mailto:paul.drum@cpaaustralia.com.au">paul.drum@cpaaustralia.com.au</a>
<b>Audit &amp; Assurance</b>	Claire Grayston CPA	<a href="mailto:claire.grayston@cpaaustralia.com.au">claire.grayston@cpaaustralia.com.au</a>
<b>Business &amp; Investment</b>	Gavan Ord	<a href="mailto:gavan.ord@cpaaustralia.com.au">gavan.ord@cpaaustralia.com.au</a>
<b>Environmental, Social &amp; Governance (ESG)</b>	Dr John Purcell FCPA	<a href="mailto:john.purcell@cpaaustralia.com.au">john.purcell@cpaaustralia.com.au</a>
<b>Ethics &amp; Professional Standards</b>	Josephine Haste CPA	<a href="mailto:josephine.haste@cpaaustralia.com.au">josephine.haste@cpaaustralia.com.au</a>
<b>Financial Planning</b>	Keddie Waller	<a href="mailto:keddie.waller@cpaaustralia.com.au">keddie.waller@cpaaustralia.com.au</a>
<b>Reporting</b>	Ram Subramanian CPA	<a href="mailto:ram.subramanian@cpaaustralia.com.au">ram.subramanian@cpaaustralia.com.au</a>
<b>Superannuation</b>	Michael Davison	<a href="mailto:michael.davison@cpaaustralia.com.au">michael.davison@cpaaustralia.com.au</a>
<b>Team Admin Support</b>	Libby Pearce	<a href="mailto:libby.pearce@cpaaustralia.com.au">libby.pearce@cpaaustralia.com.au</a> +61 3 9606 5176