CPA Australia provides detailed guidance on valuation and depreciation for public sector and not-for-profit entities

CPA Australia launched the revised CPA Australia Guide to Valuation and Depreciation for Public and Not-for-Profit Sectors under AASB Accounting Standards in Canberra on 5 February 2016, at an event for finance leaders in the public sector.

The guide, authored by David Edgerton FCPA has had significant input from sector and subject-matter experts and incorporates the latest developments in accounting standards affecting valuation and depreciation of assets held by public sector and not-for-profit entities.

The revised guide has been developed to both provide a high-level, non-technical understanding of the subject matter, and more detailed guidance for those from a technical background including accountants, valuers and engineers. As a result of the revision, the guide now focuses on valuation and depreciation issues arising under the Australian Accounting Standards, applicable in Australia.

Both the public sector and some private NFP sector entities are responsible for a very large range and volume of assets representing a highly significant investment of public or partly public funded resources. The concepts and guidance provided by this guide are applicable to both public sector and not-for-profit private sector organisations that adopt accrual accounting and regularly revalue their assets to ‘Fair Value’.

Access the revised Valuation and Depreciation guide.

Understand key reporting and assurance obligations

If you are an employee, volunteer or board member of a not-for-profit (NFP) organisation, including a charity, the Not-for-Profits: Resources to help you understand key reporting and assurance obligations guide may be a very useful resource. Created by CPA Australia in collaboration with Victorian PS &NFP Committee, it outlines various CPA Australia and other online resources to help you understand some key reporting and assurance obligations under the Australian regulatory framework.

LEARN - LATEST ETHICS, AUDIT & REPORTING NEWS UPDATE

Introducing the first edition of CPA Australia’s newest publication, Latest Ethics, Audit and Reporting News Update, or LEARN Update. This publication provides a snapshot of upcoming changes to reporting, auditing and ethical Standards and other developments within the accounting profession. We hope you find LEARN Update to be a valuable tool.
Providing members a global perspective of public sector accounting

As part of CPA Australia’s commitment to provide access to knowledge, CPA Australia hosted senior finance leaders in Canberra on 5 February, 2016 to engage with both the past and current leaders of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB).

The current chair, Mr Ian Carruthers from the UK, and outgoing chair, Prof Dr Andreas Bergmann from Switzerland, spoke about the IPSASB’s present and planned activities, as well as the organisation’s strategic direction. The event provided a global perspective of public sector accounting facilitated by Ms. Kris Peach, Chair and CEO, AASB for which the Valuation and Depreciation Guide was also launched.

Australian Government – Department of Finance Discussion Paper - Whole-of-Government - Shared and Common Services Programme

The linked Discussion Paper seeks the views of interested parties on the most effective and efficient way to consolidate shared and common service delivery in a manner that represents value for money to Government.

The Department of Finance has consulted other Australian jurisdictions and overseas governments on their approaches and lessons learnt from the delivery of shared and common service. Finance seeks to further frame the future Australian Public Service (APS) strategy for the Shared and Common Services Programme (the Programme) through engagement with the private sector.

Please find below the link to Finance’s latest shared services discussion paper.

BOOK NOW

Refresh your thinking on the key challenges affecting your sector at the Not-for-profit Conference. Hear the latest ideas to drive future funding opportunities from industry leaders.

Gain insights through practical examples, and develop your skills to increase your organisation’s social impact while ensuring financial sustainability.

Gain up to 16 CPD hours.

RETENTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION (FED) 4 March, 2016

The Government will provide certainty to the charitable sector and community organisations by announcing the decision to retain the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). Minister for Social Services, Christian Porter, and Minister for Small Business and Assistant Treasurer, Kelly O’Dwyer, said the decision followed extensive consultation with the sector on the alternative option of repealing and replacing the ACNC.

"We have given this very careful consideration," Minister Porter said. "The Government's consulted with, and listened to, all interested stakeholders."
Public sector audit committees: A behavioural reflection

A paper written by CPA Australia’s Chief Auditor Aquinas J. Purcell and Keith Thomas - College of Business, Victoria University, addresses the gap in knowledge relating to the effectiveness of public sector audit committees from a behavioural perspective (Cutting & Kouzmin 2000; Leung & Cooper 2003; Marnet 2008).

From the literature, there was a similarity of views in relation to the inputs of an audit committee (charter, skills, activities, communications and induction and training) although it does appear that there are some questions that are both important for public sector committees and as yet unanswered. Those questions, which run to the heart of this paper, are the behavioural nuances of the rigour of: debate, trust and effective communications; and the relationships with politicians and management.

The President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, Gillian Triggs, talks to Alex Malley

President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, Gillian Triggs is concerned about the lack of respect for human rights exhibited by our political leaders.

Watch The Conversation with Alex Malley through the following link theconversationtv.com.au

Live chat: Enhanced auditor reporting

Following on from the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board’s (IAASB) new requirements for auditors’ reports issued in early 2015, the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB) have now released equivalent requirements in Australia.

As a result CPA Australia hosted a live chat for anyone who may have been interested in the AUASB with respects to IAASB auditor reporting. The live chat occurred on Friday 26 February 2016 for which, participants were able to type in questions and receive targeted responses. The transcript from this hosted live chat can be viewed via the embedded window from this link.

Non-Profit News Service No. 0438 - Caps introduced for FBT

The following information is new on ato.gov.au website, published 3 February 2016. Non-Profit News Service No. 0438 - Caps introduced for FBT salary sacrificed meal entertainment benefits and entertainment facility leasing expenses. Changes are being introduced to the concessional treatment of meal entertainment and entertainment facility leasing benefits (meal entertainment benefits) for employees to improve integrity in the taxation system. For more information access the link.

Top marks (almost) for charities
Ram Subramanian CPA recently authored an article published in Intheblack. This article outlines a new ACNC report which reaffirmed the vital role of not-for-profits, but there are still some compliance concerns. Concerns include a significant number of charities that are yet to comply with the requirements to lodge certain information with the ACNC. Find out more by accessing here.

Celebrating Community and Philanthropy Partnerships Week

7 February 2016 marked the start of the inaugural Community and Philanthropy Partnerships Week, a national celebration of philanthropy. The Minister for Social Services Christian Porter said the week provided an opportunity to acknowledge the importance of collaboration between community organisations and their philanthropic partners. “This week is about highlighting the fantastic achievements community groups and businesses make by working together,” said Mr Porter. “As part of the celebrations, community groups across Australia will be showcasing and celebrating all that has been achieved with the help of their partners”. “Local MPs will also be presenting awards to community groups and businesses during the week, to help give philanthropy the recognition it deserves. “I hope that these new awards help foster future collaboration between community and business across Australia, and I encourage everyone to get involved in Partnerships Week celebrations.”

The Commonwealth Government is investing $650,000 over the next three years for Community and Philanthropy Partnerships Week. The week is an initiative of the Prime Minister’s Community Business Partnership which ran last year from 7-13 December 2015. The week brings together Government, local and business leaders to strengthen communities through philanthropy, volunteering and investment.

To find out more access Community and Philanthropy Partnerships Week or for information on the Prime Minister’s Community Business Partnership, visit the website.

Contributions to this report circulated every 8-10 weeks are welcome.

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