

OPENING STATEMENT

Peter de Cure, Chair, Tax Practitioners Board

Economics Legislation Committee, 31 May 2023

Thank you Senator.

My name is Peter de Cure and I appear as the Chair of the Tax Practitioners Board. I have served on the Board as a Board member for 6 years and on 29 May 2023, I commenced as the Chair of the Board.

I am accompanied today by my colleagues Michael O'Neill, Secretary and CEO of the Board and Janette Luu, Assistant Secretary.

By way of introduction, the TPB is an independent regulator of 62,000 tax practitioners and our primary purpose is to provide consumer protection to the public at large and clients of tax practitioners.

Our team, of approximately 150 staff and 7 Board members achieve this purpose through a range of functions and strategies, including operating a registration system, setting professional standards, dealing with complaints and referrals and conducting some 250 enquires and investigations into high risk matters each year.

Recently, our Board Conduct Committee made decisions in relation to PricewaterhouseCoopers, PwC, and Peter-John Collins and our findings relating to matters around integrity, confidentiality and conflicts of interest have been published. Detailed information about these two matters are available on the TPB's Public Register and the TPB's response to previous Questions on Notice from Senators O'Neill and McKim that were asked following the TPB's appearance at Senate Estimates in February this year.

In responding to any questions that might arise today, we must balance our commitment to working transparently with you, the Government and the Parliament with issues of wider public policy, our obligations to preserve the secrecy of taxpayer information and the privacy of individuals who were not the subject of TPB compliance action. We must also ensure that we do not prejudice other investigations that may be currently under consideration.

We note, the secrecy provisions in the *Tax Agent Services Act 2009* generally restrict our communications of confidential information.

Happy to take any further questions.

Thank you.