

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services

Report on Australian Accounting Standards tabled in compliance with the Corporations Act 2001 on 30 August and 16 November 2004.

February 2005

© Commonwealth of Australia 2005 ISBN 0642714770 Printed by the Senate Printing Unit, Parliament House, Canberra.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Senator Grant Chapman, Chairman

Senator Anna Burke, MP, Deputy Chair

Senator George Brandis

Senator Kate Lundy

Senator Andrew Murray

Senator Penny Wong

Mr Kerry Bartlett MP

Mr Chris Bowen MP

The Hon Jackie Kelly MP

Mr Stewart McArthur MP

SECRETARIAT

Dr Anthony Marinac, Acting Secretary

Ms Julie Dennett, Acting Principal Research Officer

Ms Loes Slattery, Senior Research Officer

Ms Laurie Cassidy, Executive Assistant

Suite SG.64 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

T: 61 2 6277 3583 F: 61 2 6277 5719

E: corporations.joint@aph.gov.au

W: www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/corporations_ctte

DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE

Section 243 of the *Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001* sets out the duties of the Committee as follows:

The Parliamentary Committee's duties are:

- (a) to inquire into, and report to both Houses on:
 - (i) activities of ASIC or the Panel, or matters connected with such activities, to which, in the Parliamentary Committee's opinion, the Parliament's attention should be directed; or
 - (ii) the operation of the corporations legislation (other than the excluded provisions), or of any other law of the Commonwealth, of a State or Territory or of a foreign country that appears to the Parliamentary Committee to affect significantly the operation of the corporations legislation (other than the excluded provisions); and
- (b) to examine each annual report that is prepared by a body established by this Act and of which a copy has been laid before a House, and to report to both Houses on matters that appear in, or arise out of, that annual report and to which, in the Parliamentary Committee's opinion, the Parliament's attention should be directed; and
- (c) to inquire into any question in connection with its duties that is referred to it by a House, and to report to that House on that question.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

On 2 December 2004, the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services resolved to inquire into the Australian Accounting Standards tabled in compliance with the *Corporations Act 2001* in the Senate on 30 August 2004 and 16 November 2004. The Committee will consider:

- (a) whether the proposed standards are consistent with the *Corporations Act 2001* and its regulations (as required under s. 334(1) of the Act);
- (b) whether the proposed standards will act in furtherance of the objectives of the Act; and
- (c) any related matter.

The Committee will report to both houses of parliament on 8 February 2005.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	ix
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE	iii
SECRETARIAT	iii
DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE	v
TERMS OF REFERENCE	vii
CHAPTER ONE	1
Introduction	1
Background	1
Adoption of reference	1
Submissions	2
Hearings and evidence	2
CHAPTER TWO	3
Background to the Proposed Standards	3
Key Institutions	3
Financial Reporting Council	3
Australian Accounting Standards Board	4
International Accounting Standards Board	4
The process of harmonisation	5
International consultation process	7
Australian consultation process	7
CHAPTER THREE	9
Issues	9
Transition to the new standards	9
Reporting of comparative information	12

Interpretation of the standards	13
Consistency between the AASB and IASB standards	15
Are the proposed standards genuinely principles-based?	17
Documentation associated with the standards	18
Issues relating to the content of the standards	20
Co-operatives	20
Intangible assets	21
Conclusions	22
Labor Member's Supplementary Report	23
Introduction	23
Labor's Position	23
Interpretation of the standards	23
Requirements under s300A of the Corporations Act and AAS 1046	and 1046A 24
Issues relating to the content of the standards, in terms of the imp Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) on co-operative business s	
APPENDIX 1	27
SUBMISSIONS	27
APPENDIX 2	29
PUBLIC HEARING AND WITNESSES	29
Monday, 7 February 2005 – Canberra	29
APPENDIX 3	31
AUSTRALIAN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS CONSIDERE	ED BY THE