

JOB DESCRIPTION

Position: Director Accounting Standards (full-time permanent)

Reports to: Chief Executive

Reports: 6-8 staff

Location: Wellington

Organisation:

The External Reporting Board (XRB) is an independent Crown entity with responsibility for all aspects of accounting, auditing and assurance, and other external reporting standard setting.

The XRB has two subsidiary boards, one with responsibility for accounting standard setting and the other with responsibility for auditing and assurance standard setting. The XRB Board itself is responsible for general governance of the organisation, overall financial reporting strategy (including advising the government accordingly), standards strategy, and oversight of the subsidiary boards.

The XRB's strategy aims to contribute to New Zealand's goal to create a sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous economy. High-quality information to ensure that decision making that impacts the wellbeing of New Zealand and New Zealanders are well informed is critical.

Position Purpose:

The role involves:

- Managing all aspects of the accounting standards function, including leading the technical staff undertaking this work; and
- Contributing to the corporate management of the organisation as part of the senior management team.
- Support the achievement of the XRB broader strategic objectives

Specific Areas of Responsibility:

The specific responsibilities of the Director Accounting Standards are as follows:

Supporting the delivery of the XRB's strategic objectives

As a member of the Senior Management Team the Director is expected to contribute to the corporate management of the XRB Organisation including in particular:

- Supporting the Chief Executive (and respective Chairs) of the XRB as required in the strategic leadership of the XRB;

- Contributing to the development of the XRB strategic plan, service performance measures, and financial budget information; and
- Working together with the members of the Senior Management Team to develop and promote an integrated external reporting framework for Aotearoa New Zealand that encompasses both financial and non-financial information.

Leadership

- Promoting research and thought leadership on financial accounting issues relevant to general purpose financial reporting.
- Lead and develop a team of technical experts, managing workloads and inspiring them to meet goals.
- Promote curiosity and innovation in processes and work priorities.
- Exercise sound judgement to determine issues of relevance, importance and necessity.
- Ensure a focus in promoting external reporting that will enable the highest quality decision making for resource allocation for the benefit of Aotearoa New Zealand and New Zealanders.

Accounting Standards

The accounting standards function for which the Director is responsible in managing with the team consists of the following:

- Working with the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board (NZASB) in its role as the XRB committee with delegated responsibility for developing and approving accounting standards and as thought leaders on financial reporting issues
- Working with the Chair of the NZASB in the strategic leadership of the NZASB to deliver on the XRB strategic objectives;
- The technical development (including consultation processes) and promulgation of all accounting standards (including conceptual frameworks, reduced disclosure reporting and simple format reporting) and related guidance material;
- Overseeing/preparing submissions to international standard setting bodies on exposure drafts issued by them and/or matters of importance to financial reporting in New Zealand;
- Undertaking research on financial accounting issues relevant to General Purpose Financial Reports (**GPFR**) ;
- Liaising with the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) over technical accounting standards issues, including those relating to the harmonisation of New Zealand and Australian accounting standards;

- Liaising with relevant groups within the New Zealand constituency including making presentations and otherwise communicating the XRB and NZASB's position on issues as appropriate;
- Liaising with international standard setting bodies in areas of importance to financial reporting in New Zealand, in particular the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB);
- Participating, as appropriate, in relevant international fora and groupings involving national standard-setters including IFASS, World Standard Setters and AOSSG; and
- Such other related functions as are appropriate or may be required.

A key aspect of the Director's role in undertaking these functions is supporting and advising the NZASB which has delegated responsibility for developing and issuing accounting standards and related guidance. The Director is responsible for providing staff support for the XRB's work as necessary and required, as well as contributing to its strategic leadership and direction (in conjunction with the Chief Executive).

A key relationship is with the Chair of the NZASB and the Director will be expected to establish and maintain a strong working relationship with the Chair.

Notwithstanding the importance of the relationship with the NZASB Chair, the Director reports to the Chief Executive

Influencing the International Boards

In relation to the development of Accounting Standards, lead the team in:

- Managing the preparation of submissions to international standard setting bodies on exposure drafts issued by them and/or matters of importance to financial reporting in New Zealand;
- Liaising with international standard setting bodies in areas of importance to financial reporting in New Zealand; and
- Participating in relevant international fora and groupings including those involving national standard-setters as applicable.

Constituent engagement

In relation to the development of Accounting Standards, lead the team in:

- Managing constituency consultation processes, including key stakeholder engagement;
- Liaising with relevant groups within the New Zealand constituency including making presentations and otherwise communicating the XRB's position on issues as appropriate; and

- Working with the XRB Communications and Engagement Team to manage communication strategies to promote constituent feedback on accounting standards projects.
- Ensure a focus on future financial reporting developments to ensure the accounting standards and frameworks remain relevant and continue to meet user needs.

Person Specification:

Qualifications

- Relevant tertiary qualification.
- Chartered Accountant, CPA or equivalent.

Experience

- Knowledge and experience of current accounting theory and practice in New Zealand is essential and it is desirable that the knowledge and experience covers both for profit entities and public benefit entities.
- Relevant staff management experience.
- Relevant project management experience.
- Relevant senior leadership experience

Attributes

- An understanding of, and commitment to, the role of accounting standards.
- Strong technical and conceptual thinking skills, and in particular able to provide thought leadership to the XRB in the consideration of key technical and strategic issues, and to identify and address long-term underlying issues, opportunities or threats affecting the financial reporting environment
- Strong organisational and project management skills including an ability to meet timelines.
- Results-oriented with a commitment to the highest standards of organisational performance.
- Excellent written, oral and presentation communication skills including the ability to consistently present a confident, credible and positive image of the organisation to all stakeholders.
- Strong relationship management skills including an ability to build trust across all sectors of the financial reporting community.
- Strong staff management and leadership skills including the ability to grow and maintain a high performing team.
- A commitment to the ethos and values of the public sector, including individual ethical behaviour, value for money in the use of resources, and being an equal opportunity employer.

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