



**THE HON STEPHEN JONES MP**  
**ASSISTANT TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Dear Joint Bodies

Following my commitment to introduce a transitional rule into the Tax Agent Services (Code of Professional Conduct) Determination 2024, I understand that Treasury has now provided you with a copy of the proposed rule. Subject to any further feedback from you, I intend to sign this instrument as a matter of priority to reassure industry that they will be compliant with the code during the transition to the new obligations.

I want to acknowledge and thank you for the valuable feedback you've provided throughout this process. While we consulted on the determination earlier this year and updated it in response to stakeholder feedback, I recognise that the industry would welcome further guidance and explicitness on some matters in relation to section 45 and section 15(2)(c).

I believe that clarity on many of the issues you have raised can be provided through the finalisation of the Tax Practitioners Board's (TPB) guidance. However, I have asked Treasury to also consider whether further targeted changes to the text of the determination or its explanatory statement might also assist tax practitioners and the broader community to clearly understand what is, and what is not expected under the enhanced code.

To this end, I would like to arrange a roundtable next week between Treasury, my office and your representatives to discuss changes to section 15(2)(c) and section 45. Following this discussion, I intend to publicly consult on any draft amendments, explanatory statement and further TPB guidance. This will ensure all stakeholders, including your members, continue to have the opportunity to contribute. I hope this approach demonstrates my commitment to constructive engagement with you, your members and the broader community.

Finally, I would like to again clarify – a tax practitioner will not have to disclose information about their health and wellbeing, sexual orientation or religious beliefs. These are not matters that relate to a tax practitioners ability to provide a quality service, and are outside the scope of the updated code obligations. The TPB has provided guidance on this matter on their website, and further guidance from the TPB will reinforce this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Jones', written over a light blue circular stamp.

The Hon Stephen Jones MP

27 AUG 2024