

Research activities at the ASB and potential topics April 2022





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The views and opinions expressed in this presentation are those of the individual. Official positions of the ASB on accounting matters are determined only after extensive due process and deliberation.



Research opportunities



Research at the ASB

- Newly established initiative.
- Advance financial accounting and reporting in the public sector, assess impacts of accounting and reporting on broader public financial management, governance, etc.
- Focusing on publication of articles, industry reports, post-graduate studies.

Potential topics (just ideas...)



Potential topics

- Did accrual accounting result in improved public financial management – Case study of a metropolitan municipality in SA, + comparative case study with an adopter of IPSAS in Africa (e.g. Tanzania, Ghana, Senegal, Mauritius?)
- Why entities struggle to improve their outcomes? [audit and other outcomes]
- How effectively are assets being managed? / Risk of not maintaining assets appropriately?
- Comparative study of a set financial statements [decide what type of entity] + identify differences and areas of improvement.
- Assessing the financial and governance skills gap of audit committee members [e.g. polling questions on specific areas, assess gap based on responses]
- How is taxpayer money spent? [e.g. what proportion is for salaries, services, accommodation, etc.]



Potential topics

- What is the information need of users (oversight/investor structures)?
- Determining the impact of preparer-materiality on the judgements and decisions made regarding GRAP applications, for e.g. GRAP 3.
- Reconciliation of cash based budgets to accrual based financial statements, and use of the cash flow statement
- How is accounting quality measured, i.e. how do we measure the effects of Standards and other initiatives with better evidence?
- How do we see any changes arising from issuing FAQs and Accounting Guidelines?
- What are the effects of the new Standards issued on accounting quality or other public sector relevant metrics?
- Does issuing Standards of GRAP in other languages impact the implementation of the Standards?
- Is there a difference in accounting quality of financial statement if preparers are involved in ASB initiatives, e.g. the Public Sector Accounting Forum?



Potential topics

- Do translated standards help the understanding of the Standards of GRAP?
- Should there be Standards of GRAP for less complex entities?



Questions?

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- Translations of the Standards.



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