



IPA INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC  
ACCOUNTANTS  
*Partnership beyond numbers*

# MEMBERSHIP

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[publicaccountants.org.au](http://publicaccountants.org.au)





## THE IPA

The Institute of Public Accountants (IPA) is an innovative and flexible professional membership body for accountants with a proud heritage of representing the interests of members and the accounting profession for more than 90 years.

With more than 35,000 members and students globally, we are fast becoming the membership body of choice for professional accountants worldwide. We pride ourselves on providing exceptional service, exceeding members' expectations, with leading edge information and advocacy.

An aerial photograph of London, England, showing the River Thames winding through the city. The Tower Bridge is prominent in the lower-left foreground. The city skyline is visible in the background, including several skyscrapers. The overall scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset.

# INSTITUTE OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANTS

The IPA and the IFA amalgamated in 2015 to form the IPA Group. The amalgamation increased the size, reach and influence of both associations making the group the largest SME-focused accounting body in the world.

The IFA was founded in 1916 and its headquarters are in London. It is a full member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and has members across 80 countries. The IFA, like the IPA, has a strong focus on small business and offers a range of services and benefits that have been specifically designed to support their members.



### **INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION**

We represent the interests of members across 51 countries and are amongst the top professional accounting member bodies globally in terms of membership numbers.

We have strong global connections through membership of the IFAC and the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA), with offices in Kuala Lumpur, Beijing and London.

### **PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION**

IPA members are empowered, via formal legislative recognition.

IPA membership demonstrates superior levels of education and workplace experience; adherence to a strict code of ethics; current knowledge of legislative and technical information; and a strong commitment to continuing professional education.

IPA membership sends a very strong message to employers and clients that you are professionally qualified and committed to your profession.

**INTERNATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION**

# PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

The term 'public accountant' covers much more than those who work in public practice. The term also recognises professionally qualified accountants from anywhere in the world, irrespective of the accounting (specialisation) stream or industry you are employed in.

The term public accountant is recognised worldwide as representing practitioners who are both professional and highly qualified.

**“Independent public accountants perform many functions, including auditing financial statements, designing financial accounting systems, assisting in managerial accounting functions, providing managerial advisory services, and tax preparation. The public accountant may perform services for corporations, partnerships, individuals, and other organisations”.**

**Dun & Bradstreet**



# EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO SUCCEED AND MORE

## TECHNICAL TOOLS

As an IPA member you can access the technical tools and business support you need.

We work to save you time and energy by providing you with timely alerts and explanations on changes in law and regulatory issues to keep you ahead. We help to simplify complex issues so you can confidently explain changes to your employer or clients. Your IPA membership will keep you at the forefront of legislative and regulatory changes that are crucial to the professional advice you provide to your clients/employer.

## ADVOCACY AND INFLUENCE

We have ongoing influence in the development of Federal and State legislation; professional accounting standards; and proposals on regulatory issues. We proactively maintain participation in numerous working parties/committees of government and corporate governance bodies including the Australian Taxation Office, Australian Securities and Investments Commission, the Treasury and the Australian Stock Exchange. Through your IPA membership, you have a voice that continues to influence governments and standard-setters world wide.

## IPA MEMBER OFFERS

We have secured preferential rates and substantial discounts on a range of member services and benefits. From insurance and IT products to hotels and a range of business services. Your membership will give you access to discounts and complimentary services on a range of professional and lifestyle products.

## NETWORKING

We host social and networking events across Australia. Events vary from discussion and special interest groups to social drinks, cocktail parties or formal dinners with keynote speakers. We have an online networking presence, through our social media pages, to help keep you in touch with us and fellow members.



## PROFESSIONAL ASSIST

Professional Assist is an easy to use online advice service.

Connecting members to specialist advisors and providing access to an extensive information centre, Professional Assist has been developed to assist in resolving regulatory issues.

The questions you ask are answered by independent experts acting in their full professional capacity with professional indemnity covering information published and delivered. The responses you receive can be easily adopted in your business, or passed on to your clients.



## EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

### **CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

We strongly believe in ongoing, regular continuing professional education to ensure that professional accounting skills and knowledge reflect the latest in practice and law. Our commitment is demonstrated in our Continuing Professional Education (CPE) programs that operate in each State.

We deliver more than 500 CPE events annually including webinars, master classes, roundtables, discussion groups, networking events, state conferences and a National Congress.

You can maintain your CPE hours in a central location on the IPA website's CPE Records feature, accessible on your computer, tablet or mobile.

### **IPA PROGRAM**

We provide the highest level academic program of any of the three recognised Australian professional Accounting bodies; completion of the IPA Program results in the award of a globally recognised university accredited and delivered qualification, a Master of Commerce (Professional Accounting).

The IPA Program will equip you with the skills you need to have a long, distinguished and prosperous career in the accounting profession with a membership and qualification that is recognised throughout the world.

The IPA Program, delivered by the University of New England (UNE), maintains the high standards required by the IFAC standard for accounting programs.

## **DIPLOMA OF FINANCIAL PLANNING**

The Diploma of Financial Planning is the industry endorsed requirement for accountants who provide financial advice to clients. It's an ASIC requirement that accountants complete the minimum skills and knowledge components of the Diploma of Financial Planning before receiving authorisation to provide financial advice. Our popular course allows you to gain the full Diploma of Financial Planning, together with receiving RG 146 accreditation.

We are proud to deliver our Diploma of Financial Planning in partnership with Mentor Education. Established in 2002, Mentor has fast become one of the longest established, reputable Australian owned and operated RG146 compliance training providers in the country, offering flexible professional education and training services to students anywhere in Australia. You can choose between the interactive environment of face-to-face express workshops or the flexibility of online learning at your own pace.





# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

We are dedicated to assisting graduates from either University or TAFE by offering complimentary student membership and a discounted Graduate Associate membership (GAIPA).

However, not everyone enters the IPA as a student; you can join at any stage of your career.

Apply for membership at [publicaccountants.org.au/membership](http://publicaccountants.org.au/membership)

## Entry Requirements

### ASSOCIATE (AIPA)

Diploma/Advanced Diploma of Accounting<sup>#</sup>  
or  
Degree in Accounting (or major)

### MEMBER (MIPA)

Diploma/Advanced Diploma in Accounting  
+ IPA Program: Master of Commerce  
(Public Accounting)  
+ Mentored Experience Program (MEP)  
or  
University Degree in Accounting  
+ IPA Program : Graduate Certificate in  
Public Accounting  
+ Mentored Experience Program (MEP)

### FELLOW (FIPA)

Is a current member with at least 7 years  
as an MIPA  
+ 10 years experience (5 years senior level)

<sup>#</sup>Holders of current BAS Agent or Tax Agent registration may also be admitted as Associates.

Information is subject to change and is correct at time of printing.

## Practice Certification

### PUBLIC BAS PRACTITIONER

BAS Agent Registration  
(Provides BAS services only)  
+ Holds Professional Indemnity Insurance  
+ Completed Public BAS Practitioner Program

### MY PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

AIPA, MIPA or FIPA membership  
or  
Commencement of MEP  
+ Holds Professional Indemnity Insurance  
+ Completed My Public Accountant Program\*

\*Holders of statutory registration other than BAS Agent Registration must hold a MPA Practice Certificate.





## MY PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

The IPA is committed to the growth and facilitation of professional, personal and long-lasting relationships between members and their clients.

Whether establishing a sole practice or becoming a partner in a firm, we provide the critical tools, programs and resources that practitioners need to help them excel.

My Public Accountant speaks to the very heart of the IPA's focus - providing strong support and delivering useful resources and technical information relevant to its members operating their own accounting practices.

My Public Accountant provides a supportive sub-brand to the master brand, Institute of Public Accountants, by representing a closely interwoven relationship between the IPA, members and members' clients.



## PUBLIC BAS PRACTITIONER

The IPA values the important work of BAS Agents within the broader accounting profession. A specifically tailored certificate of professional practice is available to those authorised to provide BAS and related services.

These professional practitioners can take advantage of a range of practical tools and resources to assist them in providing BAS services at a professional level.

Networking opportunities available through membership of a professional accounting body are also invaluable in ensuring that BAS practitioners provide services that meet the needs of both clients and their advisors.

## Institute of Public Accountants Head Office

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IPA Divisional Offices are located in the following cities:

Melbourne | Sydney | Canberra | Brisbane | Adelaide  
Hobart | Perth | Kuala Lumpur | Beijing | London

For enquiries within Australia call 1800 625 625.

International enquiries can be directed to IPA Head Office.

**Digital Hub:** [pubacct.org.au](http://pubacct.org.au)



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