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financial advice CPD policy

Prepared by

Compliance Team



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Purpose

1. This Policy details the requirements for Continuing Professional Development ('CPD') that are specific to representatives of H.E.S.T. Australia Limited who have been authorized to provide personal financial product advice ('advisers').
2. This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Training and Professional Development Policy, which includes other general matters relating to training and development including the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements for employees who provide general advice.

Regulatory requirements

3. This Policy must ensure compliance with;
 - a) The Corporations Act 2001;
 - b) Corporations (Advisers Continuing Professional Development Standard) Determination 2018;
 - c) H.E.S.T. Australia Limited's Australian Financial Services Licence.

CPD Year

4. A 'CPD Year' for the purposes of this policy is 1 July to 30 June each year.

CPD Plans

5. Each adviser will be required to prepare a CPD plan before the start of each financial year, or, for persons who become an adviser after the start of the CPD Year; within 3 months of commencement.
6. The CPD Plan must;
 - a. Identify areas for improvement in, and development and extension of, the provider's competence, knowledge and skills; and
 - b. Describe the qualifying CPD activities the provider will complete during the CPD year to achieve those improvements.
7. The CPD Plan must be maintained in HESTA's chosen CPD management platform Kaplan OnTrack ('**Kaplan**').
8. The CPD Plan must be approved by the adviser's manager in Kaplan.
9. The adviser's manager will be responsible for monitoring the adviser's implementation of the plan by regular monitoring of the adviser's Kaplan record.
10. An annual review will be performed by the Compliance Team to verify whether each adviser has fulfilled the CPD requirement.

CPD requirement

11. Each adviser must ensure they undertake a minimum of 40 hours of approved CPD activities in total per CPD year.
12. The approved CPD activities undertaken must include a minimum of each of the following 'CPD Areas';
 - a) 5 hours of technical competence;
 - b) 5 hours of client care and practice;
 - c) 5 hours of regulatory compliance and consumer protection;
 - d) 9 hours of professionalism and ethics; and
 - e) 5 hours of tax (financial) advice.
13. The approved CPD activities must not include any more than 30 hours of 'formal relevant education' provided by an education provider, which may include;
 - a) a degree, equivalent qualification or course approved under *the Corporations (Advisers Degrees, Qualifications and Courses Standard) Determination 2018*;
 - b) education or training provided or approved by a professional association;
 - c) formal education or training study towards qualifications or designations relevant to practice as an adviser.
14. The approved CPD activities must not include any more than 4 hours of professional reading.

Assessment and approval of CPD activities

15. Activities completed through Kaplan are approved CPD activities and do not require assessment and approval.
16. For activities undertaken outside Kaplan, advisers must provide details of the activity to the Compliance Team for determination of whether the activity is a CPD activity.
17. The Compliance Team must assess the proposed activity to determine whether it is a qualifying CPD activity as defined in section 7 of the Standard, which in summary, must include all of the following;
 - a) the activity is in one of the CPD areas in Rule 11, or, the activity is designed to maintain and extend professional capabilities, knowledge and skills, including keeping up to date with regulatory, technical and other relevant developments;
 - b) the activity has sufficient intellectual or practical content;
 - c) the activity primarily deals with matters related to the provision of financial product advice, financial advice services and financial advice business;
 - d) the activity is led or conducted by 1 or more persons who are appropriate, and have sufficient standing, expertise, academic qualifications and/or practical experience; and
 - e) the activity is designed to enhance advisers' knowledge and skills in areas that are relevant to the provision of financial product advice and financial advice services.

18. After assessment, the Compliance Team must notify the adviser if the proposed activity is approved CPD, and if so, the relevant CPD Area and hours.
19. If a CPD activity meets the requirements of more than 1 CPD Area, it must only count towards the CPD Area to which it predominately relates, to ensure there is no double counting.

Compliance

20. The requirements of this Policy and the regulatory requirements (see section 2) will be included in the Compliance Framework.

Evidence and record keeping

21. Completion of CPD through Kaplan will automatically be evidenced and a record kept in Kaplan.
22. Completion of approved CPD activities outside of Kaplan must be manually loaded into Kaplan by the adviser, including;
 - a. Evidence of completion; and
 - b. The Compliance Team CPD activity approval.

Review

23. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.