

1 JANUARY 2019 TO 31 MARCH 2019

COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE

In the January to March quarter, the FPA received nine new complaints, finalised six complaints and have 11 ongoing complaints.

Of those ongoing complaints, four are currently in the process of being closed, four are in the process of finalising the report by the investigating officer to the Conduct Review Commission (CRC), two are in the process of seeking submissions from members and/or complainants, while the FPA is in the process of interviewing a witness in the remaining ongoing complaint.

AUTOMATIC TERMINATIONS

Five members were also automatically terminated under the FPA Constitution during the quarter. Of these, four members were terminated for no longer satisfying eligibility criteria, and one was terminated as a result of receiving a banning order under the *Corporations Act*.

Over the last two quarters, the FPA has experienced a substantial increase in the number of automatic terminations as a result of regulatory action being taken against AFS Licences and authorised representatives.

TPB REFERRALS

The FPA experienced an increased number of referrals from the Tax Practitioners Board (TPB) in relation to FPA members not renewing their registrations with the TPB on time. FPA members are reminded that under the *Tax Agent Services Act* (TASA), the TPB is required to inform the FPA when a member is subject to disciplinary action by the TPB Board.

8	Complaints ongoing as at 1 January 2019
9	New Complaints
6	Closed Complaints
11	Complaints ongoing as at 31 March 2019
0	Members Suspended
0	Members Expelled (CRC)
0	Members Terminated (Constitution)
0	Other Sanctions (CRC)
4	Referred to Professional Designations Committee for Sanction

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

During the quarter, the Professional Designations Committee handed down sanctions to four students in the CFP® Certification Program. Two of these students were found to have plagiarised parts of their assignment, while the other two students were found to have colluded with others when completing their assignment.

Current and prospective students should familiarise themselves with the CFP® Program Handbook and the FPA Disciplinary Regulations 2019 regarding academic misconduct and the sanctions that may apply if academic misconduct is proven.

GUIDANCE AND REASSURANCE

The Professional Accountability team enjoy hearing from you in relation to seeking assistance and guidance. If we are unable to help you, we will likely be able to assist you to find someone who can.

You can contact the team directly by email at: professional.standards@fpa.com.au

