



# Institute of Certified Bookkeepers

## Making you Count

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## Bookkeepers helping Bookkeepers helping Business

September 2016



News, views and things you need to know.

Welcome to the ICB's September 2016 Newsletter.

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### Best Practice Bookkeeping

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- Property Transactions - New GST Resource
- Not for Profit (NFP) - Sporting Clubs - Updated Resource

### BAS Agent World

- Which is More Important - BAS on Time or BAS Correct?

### Continued Professional Education

- ICB Technical Webinar - The Bookkeeping Cycle - Sales
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- ICB Technical Webinar - Simpler BAS and Single Touch Payroll Updates

## Other Things Happening in the World

- Mobile Payment Solutions

## From the ICB

- ICB Education Advisory Board - Get Involved
- September 2016 eBrief, Customisable Newsletter for your Clients

## Save the Date: ICB Annual Conference 2017

The venues are booked and the dates are set. Make a note in your diary for the 2017 Bookkeeping Conference - bookings will open for Students and Non-Members in January 2017.

### Venue and Date Details



Hobart

#### **Hobart**

Wednesday 1 March, 2017  
Hotel Grand Chancellor  
1 Davey Street, Hobart



Brisbane

#### **Brisbane**

Tuesday 7 March, 2017  
Royal International Convention  
Centre  
600 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills



Cairns

#### **Cairns**

Wednesday 8 March, 2017  
Shangri-La Hotel  
Pierpoint Road, Cairns



Darwin

#### **Darwin**

Thursday 9 March, 2017  
Rydges Palmerston  
15 Maluka Drive, Palmerston



Adelaide

#### **Adelaide**

Tuesday 14 March, 2017  
Adelaide Convention Centre  
North Terrace, Adelaide



Canberra

#### **Canberra**

Wednesday 15 March, 2017  
Hotel Realm  
18 National Circuit, Barton



Perth

#### **Perth**

Thursday 16 March, 2017  
Crown Perth  
Great Eastern Hwy, Burswood



Melbourne

#### **Melbourne**

Tuesday 21 March, 2017  
**OR**  
Wednesday 22 March, 2017  
Melbourne Park Function Centre  
Batman Avenue, Melbourne



Sydney

#### **Sydney**

Monday 27 March, 2017  
Sydney International Convention  
Centre  
321 Kent Street, Sydney

For full details regarding Bookkeeping 2017, [please click here](#).

# ATO Tax Tables Change from 1 October

In the May Budget the government announced changes to individual tax rates for the 2016-17 income year. Legislation dealing with those announced rates was introduced to Parliament on 31 August 2016. As a result a number of tax tables have been updated to apply from 1 October 2016. Those tax tables that have not been updated will continue to apply.

For the ATO information, [click here](#).

For MYOB tax table downloads log into [my.myob here](#). (Note special comment for AR Classic files below).

For MYOB Essentials, it will happen in the system.

For Xero, the changes will happen automatically in the system.

For Reckon, access to tax tables to follow.

## What changed?

The threshold for the 37% tax rate has been moved from \$80,000 to \$87,000. This means employees with a gross income over \$80,000 will receive a tax reduction.

## When does it apply?

Any payroll "paid" after 30 September, 2016.

## Important Security Changes to AccountRight Classic (v19) Files

This update has also seen some important security changes to AccountRight Classic.

These security changes mean that files will need to be upgraded for use in v19.13. Once a Classic platform file for AccountRight Plus, Premier or Enterprise has been upgraded to v19.13, it cannot be used in an earlier edition of v19. [View the upgrade instructions](#).

**Note:** Clients that use AccountRight Standard will continue to operate as usual on their current version. We suggest that you have v19.12 installed on your computer, as clients using v19.12 will not be able to open files that you have made changes to in v19.13.

Updated tax tables **do not include any catch-up component** for the portion of the year which has already passed. Individuals affected will receive the full benefit of the tax changes upon assessment of their income tax return for the 2016-17 income year.

The following tax tables have been updated and will apply from 1 October 2016.

Full details from the ATO are [available here](#).

Regular payments	
* <a href="#">Weekly tax table</a>	NAT 1005
* <a href="#">Fortnightly tax table</a>	NAT 1006
* <a href="#">Monthly tax table</a>	NAT 1007
* <a href="#">Tax table for daily and casual workers</a>	NAT 1024

## Medicare levy

*Weekly tax table with no and half Medicare levy	NAT 1008
*Fortnightly tax table with no and half Medicare levy	NAT 74228
*Medicare levy adjustment weekly tax table	NAT 1010
*Medicare levy adjustment fortnightly tax table	NAT 1011
*Medicare levy adjustment monthly tax table	NAT 1012

## Superannuation payments

Tax table for superannuation income streams	NAT 70982
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## Other tax tables

*Tax table for actors, variety artists and other entertainers	NAT 1023
Tax table for annuities	NAT 3350
Tax table for unused leave payments on termination of employment	NAT 3351
Tax table for back payments, commissions, bonuses and similar payments	NAT 3348
*Tax table for seniors and pensioners	NAT 4466

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# Supervision and Control of Unregistered BAS Service Providers

An ICB view and understanding of the law and TPB policy that:

1. A person who is not registered shall not advertise that they can perform agent services, nor can they perform those services in their own right
2. A person who is not registered can enter an arrangement with a registered agent to perform the agent services for the clients of the unregistered person



Where you have an unregistered person who is engaging a registered agent to provide the tax or bas agent services to the clients we believe it is acceptable and legal to:

- Advertise themselves as a bookkeeper
- They can advertise that BAS Agent services provided to their clients are performed by ABC Pty Ltd Agent Number 12334667

They cannot advertise themselves as a BAS Agent. They should **not** advertise just “BAS Agent services are provided under supervision”.

They could state that bookkeeping work will be performed and provided to ABC Pty Ltd to provide the BAS Agent Services in relation to each BAS.

It is a pretty clear line of differentiation in our view.

The TPB have advised the ICB as follows:

*The ICB view and understanding of the law for the advertising of BAS services is therefore correct in that an entity (including an individual) who is not registered must not advertise that they will provide BAS services. If they advertise a BAS service without being registered, they will contravene the TASA, and may potentially be liable to pay a pecuniary penalty under section 50-35 of the TASA.*

*The issue of supervision and control arrangements for advertising by unregistered entities (such as bookkeepers) is not clearly defined in the TASA so in response to the issues that you have raised, we therefore provide the following advice on the TPB approach to these issues:*

## **Advertising by Unregistered Bookkeepers**

*The TASA regulates the advertising of tax agent services, including BAS services, but this does not extend to the advertising of bookkeeping services.*

*In situations where an unregistered bookkeeper advertises the provision of BAS services, it is the TPB expectation is that these BAS services are provided by a registered tax agent or BAS agent, and that the advertisement makes it clear that the BAS service is being provided by a registered agent and not the bookkeeper. The bookkeeper cannot advertise themselves as providing the BAS service.*

*In terms of 'being clear that the BAS service is provided by a registered agent', it is noted that the TASA does not have any requirements for the registered entity be identified by name or registered agent number (RAN) in the advertisement.*

*Whilst a simple reference such as 'BAS services are provided by a registered Agent' would be sufficient to meet the requirements of the TASA, advertising of this nature would not be in line with our expectation of 'best practice' advertising and would likely result in enquiries from the TPB to verify the identity of the registered agent/s who are actually providing the BAS service that are being advertised.*

*In the example provided, a statement to the effect that 'bookkeeping work will be performed and provided to ABC Pty Ltd to provide the BAS services' would be accepted by the TPB as not contravening the TASA.*



## **What Does This Mean?**

An unregistered bookkeeper, (i.e., not a BAS Agent), can only provide certainty and assurance about GST, PAYGW, BAS, SGC or TPAR if they are directly supervised by a registered BAS agent.

They can only provide such services if

1. The client specifically and directly knows that the BAS services are being provided by the registered agent
2. The invoicing for BAS agent services must either be directly from the BAS agent or, if indirectly, included in the bookkeeper's invoice is the name of the agent and registered agent number.

They, the unregistered bookkeeper, **cannot advertise** that they are able to provide BAS Services in their own right.

If they specifically state that they work with a registered agent and name that agent and state that BAS agent services are provided by that agent, then they can advertise that relationship as part of their service offerings. It is only by specifically naming the registered agent that any website, flyer or social media presence can indicate that an unregistered bookkeeper can facilitate the provision of such services.

For details and guidelines on supervision and control, see ICB resource [TPB Code of Conduct Competence](#).

## **Related References**

- [ICB - TPB Code of Conduct-Competence-Supervision and Control Guidelines](#)
- [ICB - TPB Pursuing Unregistered Agents](#)
- [ICB - Unregistered BAS Providers Cannot Advertise BAS Services](#)

# ICB Presents at Xerocon: Bookkeepers are Influencing the World; the World is Impacting Bookkeeping

## Where Does ICB fit in the Global Picture of Bookkeepers?

ICB Global is a network of world-wide bookkeeper professional associations. ICB UK, USA and Australia, form the Governing Members of the Global Network. The Network actually extends into 110 countries with combined membership of about 150,000 bookkeepers.

What ICB Global is very aware of are the different regimes and different laws that exist around “being a bookkeeper” in the different countries. ICB UK was instrumental in helping ICB Australia form 10 years ago, but they had the wisdom to allow us to customise the ICB approach to apply to the existing software consultants and bookkeepers in Australia and build on the work that was in place.



## What Role Does ICB Play in Working with Software Companies?

ICB is about bookkeepers helping bookkeepers helping business.

In order to do that, the Australian context is that most bookkeepers are using software in some form and the software companies do a great job of bringing bookkeepers to the fore. We look at the constant journey Xero has taken with raising the profile of bookkeepers and looking at how best to motivate, train and develop those bookkeepers.

ICB with the primary aim of developing the professionalism and efficiency of doing bookkeeping and helping business, at times has a different perspective than the software companies. We contribute thoughts and ideas into the future product development and we challenge how the software works. There are things that have been implemented in Xero and other products that we observe and then make comment about how the law works or how it could work more efficiently. We have found Xero to be ready to listen to what the bookkeeper community has to say. Xero doesn't always agree with how we might express it nor sometimes see our priority as a high priority, but they listen and the general trend is they take on board the views that ICB brings from the perspective of the bookkeepers.

There are some big picture items going on in the software space that we also take a bookkeeper's perspective into.

The Digital Business Council was formed to lead the discussion and development of an eInvoicing platform for Australia. ICB is a member of and an influencer on what eInvoicing should look like and we take the bookkeepers view, but also the business software view into those discussions to ensure they don't recreate the world that already exists. Xero has been a great supporter and contributor into that discussion as well.

The software industry has formed the Australian Business Software Industry Association which ICB has been able to provide the bookkeepers and business perspectives.

Software companies and professional associations are fairly well engaged with the ATO to help them understand the reality of doing business. ICB has been taking a software user's perspective into those discussions.

Bookkeepers through ICB have a number of positions within the ATO decision-making forums. We sit on the board of the ABR - the Australian Business Registrar that oversees the whole ABN system.

We have a seat on the Working With Our Partners Program Board - which is the ATO governance body overseeing how the ATO working with what it calls Partners: Associations, Software Companies, Tax Agents, BAS Agents, Accountants, Bookkeepers, Superfunds etc. The bookkeepers' perspective is constantly brought into ATO policy and governance discussions.

We have a seat on the Tax Practitioner Stewardship Group, which is the consultation and guidance group of Senior Executive of the ATO, (10 Deputy Commissioners), and the practitioner community. ICB is the only bookkeeping association formally representing bookkeepers in that forum. The BASAAG is the BAS Agent Association Group which works with the ATO specifically on behalf of the BAS Agent community.

## What does this Mean for Bookkeepers?

ICB is all about bookkeepers. We get our information from bookkeepers, we get the queries and perspectives from bookkeepers. ICB technical support and resource staff are all bookkeepers in their own right doing what Xero partners do. We gather the thoughts of our members, our advisory board members, feedback from our 74 network meetings which approximately 700 people attend over each 2 months. We work with those thoughts and views and take them into government so that bookkeepers don't get lost in the thinking or the progress.

If we take Single Touch Payroll (STP), ICB has been intensively involved with treasury consultations, meetings and forums with the Ministers and with the ATO. We take to these meetings our reality so that Government doesn't design something stupid that causes us more pain. The original process had every employer needing to report every 250 pieces of data for every employee for every payslip to the ATO at the time it happened and then also fix any errors in any payslip and retell the ATO about every correction or discrepancy. Imagine the reconciliation process or the checking and fixing work to match every client's payroll with the ATO version. The original version also had every employer paying their super every pay run, as well as paying the PAYGW at every pay run.

We have managed to get them to understand that bookkeepers spend a significant amount of time each BAS and certainly at each end of year verifying, checking and fixing errors. In the original version this would have to be done every pay run.

## What about Single Touch Payroll?

Today the design of STP is that each pay run you would only report the YTD totals, therefore, no corrections are required. If you had to fix something in your client's records then the client's payroll system is considered the source of truth and next pay run you would submit the updated YTD numbers. The ATO would work with the updated / corrected numbers without you needing to resubmit anything to the ATO.

Bookkeepers through ICB have had a significant say and influence on the design: We now have a seat on the senior stewardship group for STP and the design working groups. It will start July 2017.

STP should allow a more efficient process for engaging a new employee, providing end-of-year payment summaries and also allow the ATO to track whether employers are paying their SGC and PAYGW.

## What about Simpler BAS?

We have been pushing for some time for the ATO to open up SBR lodgement of BAS through business software. Xero has done a great job of facilitating partner lodgement through the Practice Management Software, the TFN lodgement from the business subscription and now EMPDUPE / payment summary annual report. We want the bookkeeper community to interact with the ATO via digital means from within the software we use.

So the BAS has been a long journey. Getting SBR lodgement of the BAS through software the bookkeeper already uses would be more efficient. That is underway and the ATO are getting better at delivering that functionality.

The simpler BAS is a better concept that removes unnecessary "fixit" work for no value. It does not change the actual GST law, only the reporting process.

ICB has been taking the practical view that the natural business process for GST and the BAS should for a business owner to only think about GST or **no** GST. We have presented, and they have now verified for themselves, that the G codes probably aren't useful. In many cases the degree of accuracy is pretty poor. They have also worked out that they have created a lot of fixing time that doesn't actually give rise to any meaningful result.

## eInvoicing

eInvoicing framework is currently in development so that all invoices can be sent digitally from any supplier to any customer in a consistent format. The software generates is electronically and it will be received directly into the purchaser's software - regardless of the system that generated it.

This will drastically impact the software, the way we provide services to business and how businesses interact with each other - it should be far more efficient.

## Summary

The reinvention program of the ATO is excellent and is producing excellent behaviour change inside the ATO. Our experience is that the ATO senior executive have opened up to work with our reality and to work with the natural business systems of Australian SMEs.

The "Digital by Default" program has the ATO rapidly updating and progressing their own computerisation and use of today's computer, software and internet techniques.

ICB have been very involved on behalf of the bookkeeper community, (and therefore, also their business clients or employers), in helping the ATO implement logical changes and to fix the ATO system to work with what we spend all our time doing.

We have had to significantly shift the thinking from the ATO that they, the ATO, are the only ones who know how to do anything. We have shown them that actually they see very little of what we see, because we fix it first.

Together the bookkeeper community, BAS Agents, Tax Agents, business owners and the ATO have our respective roles to play in the tax system. We are encouraging the ATO to do their job, which is to regulate and collect tax fairly and equitably. They should then facilitate and enable, if not empower, registered agents as tax intermediaries to apply the tax system to businesses. Businesses should get on and do their business, enjoy doing what they do, make money and then use natural business systems to facilitate the correct payment of the correct amount of tax. The journey continues.

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## Global Bookkeeping Week Review

Tens of thousands of bookkeepers from across the world came together to celebrate Global Bookkeeping Week during 12-16 September.

ICB Bookkeepers Global Coffee Meetup on 14th September, members of ICB globally were encouraged to get together and "raise a cup" of coffee to the bookkeeping profession.

ICB Australia hosted a [Global Bookkeeping Week Webinar](#) facilitated by Executive Director Matthew Addison and attended by 60 bookkeepers nationally.

ICB also hosted a breakfast in Melbourne to celebrate on the 14th September, which was attended by 30 local bookkeepers.

Bookkeepers across Australia celebrated #GlobalBookkeepingWeek at their local Network Meetings run by ICB Network Facilitators and shared photos of their celebrations on Social Media. There were nearly 5,000 impressions in Facebook and over 800 in ICB Australia Twitter.

Bookkeeping is... helping Business!

#GlobalBookkeepingWeek #CelebrateBookkeepers



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## How ICB Communicates with You

In response to a few questions recently, we thought we would outline the current model of how ICB communicates with you.

### ICB Keeping Close to You

ICB stays involved in your world by being participants in your world. Our technical support and resource development teams are made up of part-time bookkeepers who all have their own clients. Our team of people delivering knowledge and support to you are each engaged in their own businesses as contract bookkeepers. They experience what you experience, they are working with the issues and the ATO in the same way that you are. This provides us with direct insight into the current needs of bookkeepers: knowledge, solutions, resources, software, how-to guides or technical webinars.



### Keeping Close to Things that Influence You

By being intensely involved in many forums with the ATO we also remain very involved in knowing, (and influencing), what the ATO is doing to your world. It gives us a great ability to hear from you what is going on and influence them, as well as hearing from them what they are planning to do and often redirecting their thinking. Our direct relationships with each of the software companies allows us to understand where they are coming from and what they are saying to you.

### Hearing from You

ICB hears from you by the enquiries that come into support and via our social media channels. By responding to the enquiries for more information we establish the list of additional resources to be developed and the knowledge to provide to you via our website and the newsletter.

Our network facilitators provide us with feedback following each meeting including a constant flow of follow up questions and clarifications based on the information discussed at those meetings.

## How we Deliver Information to You



Information articles, knowledge pieces and resources are first provided to you by their inclusion in the [ICB website resource](#) library.

The resources are then classified into categories thought most relevant for your access:

- BAS Agents
- Bookkeeping
- Business Matters
- End of Year
- GST & BAS
- Payroll
- Software
- Your Bookkeeping Business
- News Items

Each new resource or item of information is then published in our monthly newsletter.

## How Often do we Contact You?

ICB have a deliberate policy of contacting you with our essential information **once** per month. Our key delivery of information to you is via our members' newsletter.

## The Newsletter is Delivered in Multiple Formats

**a. Full email newsletter**, (the default subscription), containing all information, essential news and new and updated resources.

**b. Website newsletter** provides the archive of all past issues and access to the current issue. The index page for each month provides access to the full information included in the members' newsletter.



Access previous newsletters via the website: [Members Newsletters](#)

**c. Click-through newsletter** provides a one page click-through version email. You subscribe to this version by emailing [admin@icb.org.au](mailto:admin@icb.org.au) and requesting to be added to the mailing list.

**d. Podcast newsletter** is a recorded reading of the newsletter content. Members are automatically subscribed to this. If you have previously removed this from your account settings, email [admin@icb.org.au](mailto:admin@icb.org.au) and request to be added back to the mailing list. Past newsletter podcasts are available at [Members Newsletters via Podcast](#)

**e. Network Meetings.** Our facilitators are provided with a presentation pack that they can tailor and use if they wish at the [ICB network meetings](#).

These meetings are currently held in 74 different locations and also by webinar, (also recorded for watching at your leisure); the webinar meetings discuss the content of the newsletters. Many members tell us that they prefer to digest the newsletter with other bookkeepers at the monthly network meeting.

**f. Technical webinars** are held twice each month by the support team, presenting a variety of topics to you live. The [webinars](#) are also available as recorded versions for streaming at your leisure.

All of these resources, meetings and webinars are included in your annual membership fee.

## Urgent and Current News Items

Important news is delivered in multiple forms:

- Our news feed on the [home page](#) of the ICB website
- Our [ICB Facebook](#) page
- Our [ICB Support and Discussion Facebook](#) group
- Our [ICB LinkedIn](#) page
- Our [ICB Twitter](#) page

On rare occasions, if a matter is extremely important, we will send out a special email news item.

## Events

The network meetings are administered by an invitation subscription and our event booking system. We notify you of the calendar through the [network meeting](#) webpage. You can also subscribe to receive the specific invitations to each of the meetings you would like to know about: Go to [MyICB](#), then "Account Settings", then "My email preferences".

## Annual Conference

Each March, ICB brings our annual conference to 9 locations around Australia. [Bookkeeping 2017](#) has been scheduled; see the separate item in this newsletter for dates and locations.

The conference is a full day that delivers valuable bookkeeping information. It is about providing you relevant content that we believe you need to know about your bookkeeping world and also the coming impacts on your world. We bring technical content, industry updates and professional development items - as well as a chance to network with your peers and fellow members.

## Where to Next?

ICB regularly reviews our communication strategies and we want to ensure that we are providing you information in a manner that works for you. Your feedback to date says we have it pretty much right. As always, we welcome your ongoing thoughts and suggestions - email [admin@icb.org.au](mailto:admin@icb.org.au).

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# Best Practice Bookkeeping

## Superfunds Demanding More Than They Should

Some Superfunds are ignoring the logic of SuperStream and sending threat letters to employers is getting out of control. The most effective way for an employer to embrace the efficiency of SuperStream is to use one gateway, preferably provided by their payroll software, and pay it all in one process.

Superfunds need to get on board. Encourage and embrace employers who are working with this system. Stop sending legal letters because you can't process as quickly as you should.

Superfunds, stop tricking people into paying monthly when really they have no legal obligation to do so.

There are some good Superfunds around who are working with the system, there are some others that aren't playing well.

The ATO should be bringing the Superfunds into line.

ICB is in discussion with the ATO to work on what is acceptable behaviour from the funds and also a checklist of things an employer needs to assess before they agree to a fund's terms and conditions.

Nil payment advices should not be required.

Monthly payments are not required by Superannuation Guarantee but can be required by Modern Awards.

An employer is definitely allowed to pay through one gateway and does not **have** to pay separately to each fund.

Superfunds cannot demand you pay them directly.



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## New Catch-Up Client - Advise the ATO

ICB strongly recommends that when you take in a new client that has a lot of historical catch up work, add them to your client list and immediately let the ATO know you are working on fixing up everything.

The ATO policy is that they will positively respond and work with you.

We hear stories that occasionally the ATO immediately get grumpy and try to impose deadlines and penalties and make demands. Do not accept a negative attitude: advise them that you have a client willing to get their act together and is now actively working with you to become compliant. Don't be afraid to remind the ATO representative that the ATO policy is to work with you as a professional partner and not against you.

If the ATO representative doesn't get on board, let us know and the ICB will happily go into bat for you.



### References

- [ICB - Lodgement Program and Requirements](#)
- [ICB - New Client with Outstanding Lodgements](#)
- [ICB - ATO Commits to Agents](#)

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## GST Doesn't Apply from 1 October for Overseas Business

Certain transactions between overseas businesses and Australian businesses will no longer be subject to GST from 1 October 2016.

### Changes to GST Obligations for Overseas Businesses

Overseas business clients may no longer be subject to GST from 1 October 2016.

Overseas businesses supplying Australian businesses don't need to register for GST if they:

- only make GST-free supplies through an enterprise carried on outside Australia
- have a business presence in Australia of less than 184 days in a 12-month period
- have a GST turnover below the GST registration threshold of A\$75,000 (because certain supplies will no longer be included in the GST turnover).



GST-registered importers no longer need to identify the exact amount paid for international transport, insurance and other costs to calculate the value of the taxable importation for GST purposes.

## Supplies 'not connected to Australia'

As a general rule, the following transactions are no longer connected with Australia for non-residents suppliers, and therefore, the non-resident supplier will not be subject to GST on these transactions:

- supplies of intangibles (such as services and digital products) which are done in Australia are not connected if the recipient is an Australian-based business recipient or a non-resident acquiring the intangibles for their overseas enterprise
- a transfer of ownership of leased goods which are located in Australia, where the transfer takes places between non-residents that do not have an enterprise in Australia
- a supply of goods where the supplier installs or assembles the goods in Australia, but does not import the goods into Australia.

For more information, email [AustraliaGST@ato.gov.au](mailto:AustraliaGST@ato.gov.au)

See also:

- [ATO - GST cross-border transactions between businesses](#)
- [ATO - Changes to GST obligations for overseas businesses](#)

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## SME Tax Rate Drops - Review PAYG Instalments

The company tax rate has dropped to 28.5% for SMEs. Therefore, any company paying PAYG Instalments on their BAS should consider dropping their instalment rate from the September BAS.

BAS Agents can put in the details to alter the rate. **However**, the change in rate **must** be advised by the business' Tax Agent.

[ATO - Small business company tax rate cut](#)

### Related References

- [ICB - PAYG Instalments](#)

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## ATO Continues its Program of Reinvention

### Reinventing the ATO

The ATO continues its path of "reinvention". Below we provide a relevant extract that applies to our interactions with the ATO.



This extract and the associated vision statements on the website outline how the ATO is saying it wants to behave and the type of interactions it is aiming to have with us.

"We want to give you the best possible experience of the tax and superannuation systems, so we're changing the way we work."

[ATO – Reinventing the ATO Program Summary](#)

We're working to improve your experience of the tax and superannuation systems based on what you told us you needed. The blueprint outlines how the ATO is reinventing the experience you have.

Some changes will happen in the near future and others will take longer. We want to make every year count, so you'll see a program of improvements being delivered now and in the years ahead.

## What we told the ATO about what we want:

### 1. Intermediaries: Tax Agents

- **Partners in the tax and superannuation systems** through excellent working relationships with the ATO, and acknowledging agents' collective role in improving compliance.
- **Adapting to change** with an evolving business model that reflects broader environmental changes.
- **One place to interact** with a single and secure entry point for online government services and information.
- **Make it easier with integrated practice** software which links to client's software and the ATO.
- **My circumstances are understood** with tailored engagement based on circumstances and client preferences.
- **Partners in the tax and superannuation systems** by implementing solutions that make compliance with tax and superannuation systems a by-product of core business activities.
- **Adapting to change** by understanding and responding to the ongoing broader environmental changes.
- **Make it easier** with software solutions that seamlessly interact with the ATO and government.
- **Shared journey** by understanding operating environments and working together to capitalise on opportunities.
- **Right people, right time** allowing for tailored engagement.

### 2. Intermediaries: Software Developers

#### Every Year Counts - Tax Agents and BAS Agents

##### Improvements in 2016-17

Here are key initiatives you've told us are important that have been or will be delivered in 2016–17:

- **Talking with you more** – you have more opportunity to talk to ATO staff at an increasing number of open forums, online forums and through professional associations and software developer events.
- **Knowing what is changing and getting involved** – you know what is changing for tax professionals in 2016–17 and what support is available to help you.
- A simpler BAS experience – you may be asked to test the simpler BAS for your client. This is designed to reduce your clients' GST record keeping by having fewer GST labels to complete.
- Practitioner lodgement service (PLS) – you are supported in using PLS for forms, services and schedules.
- Increased certainty through safe harbours – you have increased certainty for your clients on tax and superannuation issues because we provide clear boundaries within which you can operate.
- Consultation on improved online services – your professional associations, some tax agents and BAS agents, software developers and the ATO will work together to modernise the portals.
- Improved public advice and guidance – you can easily find relevant and up-to-date public advice and guidance on our website and the legal database.
- Improving online services – you have access to more services online through a new modernised portal interface and in your practice management software.

In addition to the experiences outlined above, you may be involved in consultation and co-design activities on the following key improvements:

- New credentials – we will continue work on new ways to enable you to access online services securely, such as using your mobile device to manage tax and super on behalf of your clients.
- Involvement in the design of concepts
  - We are co-designing with professional associations and software developers to enhance the delivery of tax and superannuation services for agents and the community, including the Partnership Framework and the Partnership Relationship Model.
  - Tax and BAS agents will be able to provide input directly and through their professional association representative or through a collaboration website.

You can download a timeline of this information in Portable Document Format (PDF). Download the [Every year counts timeline for tax agents and BAS agents](#)

## Improvements in 2015-16

In 2015-16, we focused on fixing the basics and delivered new, tailored services to transform how you deal with us.

You are our partners in the tax and superannuation systems. We've increased our support, focusing on how we work together and adapt to the changing environment to ensure tax and super services are delivered by the right people, in the right way, at the right time.

Here are some of the improvements we delivered in 2015-16:

- a new [lodgement service](#) for Tax Time 2016.
- new services in your practice management software, including better visibility of your clients' mail
- making it easier to [authenticate](#) without an AUSkey when using SBR-enabled online (cloud) software
- [real-time notifications](#) of portal outages, system enhancements and planned changes.

## Every Year Counts - Software Developers

### Improvements in 2016-17

Here are key initiatives you've told us are important that have been or will be delivered in 2016-17:

- Simpler BAS – you have the opportunity to be involved in the design and testing of the simpler BAS solution for small business.
- Working in partnership – you are clear on the mutual obligations between industry and the ATO. You can partner with us to develop solutions that enhance the delivery of tax and super services that also benefit software developers.
- Software services – you can progressively build more value-adding features into software for tax professionals and business.
- Streamlining business registration – you can connect new services into your software that allow your clients to register and maintain business details.
- Practitioner lodgment service (PLS) – your software fully utilises PLS and does not rely on legacy lodgment channels.
- Tailoring information – you can access the latest information for your industry from your preferred channel. Relevant information is easy to find and understand.
- Single Touch Payroll pilot – you may be involved in the development of the small business pilot with us, small business and other software developers.
- Service standards – our service level standards are transparent and you have confidence that the ATO will be supporting you in developing digital services to the community.



In addition to the experience outlined above, you may be involved in consultation and co-design activities on the following key improvements:

- A single entry point for interacting with the ATO.
- The opportunity to shape elements of the Enterprise Client Profile.

You can download a timeline of this information in Portable Document Format (PDF). Download the [Every year counts timeline for software developers](#)

## Every Year Counts - Small Businesses

We're working to improve your experience of the tax and superannuation systems based on what you told us you needed. The blueprint outlines how the ATO is reinventing the experience you have.

Some changes will happen in the near future and others will take longer. We want to make every year count, so you'll see a program of improvements being delivered now and in the years ahead.

### Improvements in 2016 – 17

Here are key initiatives you've told us are important that have been or will be delivered in 2016 – 17:

- [Improving access to government online services](#) – you can now use online services more easily to do your tax and super by logging in with your myGov account to access services on behalf of your company, partnership or trust.
- If you're new to [excise or wine equalisation tax \(WET\)](#), you receive additional support when you start to have excise or WET obligations, including regular contact to help you stay on track in the first year.
- A simpler BAS experience – you or your agent may be asked to test the simpler BAS. This is designed to reduce your GST record keeping by having fewer GST labels to complete.
- Managing your cash flow – you or your agent can use a cash flow management education package to help you better plan and manage your business commitments, including tax and super.
- Improving access to government online services – you can use online services more easily to do your tax and super by nominating others to interact with government online on behalf of your business, in full or limited capacity.
- Small business record keeping – you can use the *ATO app* to record your business income and expenses on the go. You can provide this information to your agent or upload it to us.
- Registering a new business – you can go to a single location to apply for an ABN and complete a number of other government registration obligations. This initiative is being delivered with the Department of Industry.

In addition to the experience outlined above, you may be involved in consultation and co-design activities on key improvements, such as:

- Contemporary online excise – we are working with excise payers and representatives to co-design a contemporary online excise experience.
- New credentials – we will continue our work on new ways to enable you to access online services securely, such as using your mobile device to manage your tax and super.

You can download a timeline of this information in Portable Document Format (PDF). Download the [Every year counts timeline for small businesses](#)

### Improvements in 2015-16

In 2015-16, we focused on fixing the basics and delivered new, tailored services to transform how you deal with us and give you certainty about where you stand.

You now have access to more online information, services and tools that make it easier to manage your tax and super obligations and keep your business on track. Here are some of the improvements we delivered in 2015–16:

- extended hours for [after-hours web chat](#) for extra help at a time that suits you
- a [personal services income tool](#)
- a [Fuel tax credit \(FTC\) calculator](#) and [Practical Compliance Guidelines](#)
- a [business performance check tool](#) on the *ATO app* so you can see how your business is tracking compared to similar businesses in your industry
- for sole traders, the ability to lodge, view and pay activity statements online through [myGov](#)
- more [support](#) for new businesses to help you get it right from the start.

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## Continued Professional Education

### This Month From the ICB Continued Professional Education Webpage

ICB Events and Webinars	Classroom	Online
<a href="#">ICB Technical Webinar - The Bookkeeping Cycle - Sales Webinar</a> , 13th October, 2016	<a href="#">Understanding Financial Reports - including Non Reporting entities</a> Classroom, Balcatta, WA Multi-Dates	<a href="#">MYOB News Channel</a> Online 14th October, 2016
<a href="#">ICB Technical Webinar - Payslips</a> Webinar, 18th October, 2016	<a href="#">Budgets and Cashflow Management</a> Classroom, Balcatta, WA Multi-Dates	<a href="#">SuperStream using MYOB</a> Online Multi-Dates
<a href="#">ICB Technical Webinar - The Bookkeeping Cycle - Purchases</a> Webinar, 27th October, 2016	<a href="#">Ask ACNC 2016</a> Classroom, Multi-Locations Multi-Dates	<a href="#">SuperStream Employer Industry Webinars</a> Online Multi-Dates
<a href="#">ICB Technical Webinar - The Bookkeeping Cycle - Payroll</a> Webinar, 10th November, 2016	<a href="#">Reckon One Certification</a> Classroom, Multi-Locations Multi-Dates	<a href="#">Xero Now Webinars</a> Online Multi-Dates
<a href="#">ICB Technical Webinar - Simpler BAS and Single Touch Payroll</a> Webinar, 15th November, 2016	<a href="#">Learn Calxa in a Day</a> Classroom, Perth, WA 13th October, 2016	<a href="#">MYOB Training Courses</a> Online Multi-Dates
	<a href="#">TPB visits Sydney and Melbourne</a> Multi-Locations Multi-Dates	<a href="#">Xero Training Courses</a> Online Multi-Dates
	<a href="#">Payroll Administration Course</a> Classroom, Perth, WA Multi-Dates	<a href="#">Excel Training Courses</a> Online Multi-Dates
	<a href="#">Reckon Accredited Partner Training Days</a> Multi-Locations Multi-Dates	<a href="#">TPB Webinars</a> Online Multi-Dates



Xero Accounting & Xero Payroll  
Classroom, Perth, WA  
Multi-Dates

Reckon Advanced Certificate  
Training  
Multi-Locations  
Multi-Dates



The Power of Calxa for Your  
Practice  
Online  
Multi-Dates



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## ICB Network Meetings

### Question For You to Discuss This Month - Shadow Director for a Client's Company

This month's question for you all to debate at your network meeting is:

Is it okay for me (bookkeeper / BAS agent), to accept a position in a client's company as a shadow director? Could you please explain what a shadow director is?



[Let us know your thoughts here.](#)

#### Last month we asked you:

My client (a sole trader) sells holiday packages to overseas tourists. The packages include fishing boat charter, fishing equipment, meals, transport and accommodation in a privately owned holiday house, (he owns the house).

Should we charge GST on the whole package? Or only on the boat charter and prepared meals? Is the accommodation defined as commercial or residential?

He manages it himself, and leases to both individuals (without fishing packages), and to individuals as part of the package, nobody lives in the house when it is not being rented out to tourists.

What would your advice be?

## ICB's Response:

On first glance it seems that the holiday house might be defined as “residential premises”, as it is a privately owned house.

According to the *GST Act 1999*, residential premises means “land or a building that is occupied as a residence or for residential accommodation; or is intended to be occupied, and is capable of being occupied, as a residence or for residential accommodation...regardless of the term of the occupation or intended occupation...”.

Also the premises “... must provide shelter and basic living facilities”, whereas commercial residential premises are those such as hotel, hostel, boarding house, caravan parks and so on, and don't necessarily provide kitchens and private bathrooms.

If the house was deemed to be residential, then supplies of accommodation would be input taxed.

However, the house qualifies as commercial residential premises, based on a number of factors:

- the owner is providing accommodation to paying guests
- the premises are operated on a commercial basis or in a “business-like manner”
- the accommodation is offered to the public
- accommodation is the main purpose of the premises
- other services may be provided or arranged – this is the case with the package, as the owner is providing food, transport services and boat hire and equipment
- the occupants are short-term and are treated as guests and do not have the same rights as a tenant

The main factor here is that the house is used solely for business purposes. The accommodation is provided to paying people as a commercial venture, regardless of whether they take up a package that includes other services.

The owner can claim GST on all expenses related to repairs and maintenance of the premises, as well as all supplies and upkeep for the accommodation, (such as bed linen, bathroom supplies, cleaning, gardening and so on).

Please note that each circumstance should be specifically assessed by the tax agent as the law varies and many different interpretations are given to the “holiday house” scenario. BAS agents should treat the GST following the interpretation for income tax. Therefore, check with the tax agent first. The above scenario is one interpretation.

## References

- [ICB – Commercial Accommodation and GST](#)
- [ATO – Commercial Residential Premises](#)
- [Thomson Reuters – Australian GST Handbook](#) See Chapter 27 Supplies of Residential Premises

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# Upcoming Network Meetings

Join a network meeting, not just to share, but to also network and keep informed.

All ICB Network Facilitators volunteer their time to assist ICB in keeping you up to date and informed and without the help of these fantastic people these valuable meetings would not happen.

If you are unable to attend your local meeting due to time restraints or there isn't a meeting in your area, why not join us via webinar on the 2nd week of each month.

<b>Webinars</b>				
Online - 12pm 14th October, 2016	Online - 5pm 10th October, 2016			
<b>ACT</b>				
Canberra - Northside 19th October, 2016	Canberra - Phillip 11th October, 2016			
<b>New South Wales</b>				
Albury 30th Sept, 2016	Ballina 14th October, 2016	Balmain 17th October, 2016	Bathurst 15th November, 2016	Bellingen 24th October, 2016
Blue Mountains TBA	Brookvale 10th October, 2016	Central Coast TBA	Dubbo 8th December, 2016	Hawkesbury Region TBA
Hills Region (Rouse Hill) 19th October, 2016	Hornsby 13th October, 2016	Lower North Shore 17th October, 2016	Moorebank 12th October, 2016	Newcastle TBA
Newport 18th October, 2016	Orange 17th November, 2016	Port Macquarie 25th October, 2016	Randwick - Bondi 12th October, 2016	Shoalhaven 28th November, 2016
Southern Highlands 10th October, 2016	Sutherland 19th October, 2016	Wollongong 12th October, 2016		
<b>Queensland</b>				
Atherton Tablelands 10th October, 2016	Brisbane North 11th October, 2016	Brisbane South 18th October, 2016	Bundaberg 18th October, 2016	Burpengary 11th October, 2016
Cairns 7th October, 2016	Dalby TBA	Gold Coast - AM 11th October, 2016	Gold Coast - PM 11th October, 2016	Hervey Bay 18th October, 2016
Ipswich 11th October, 2016	Logan 19th October, 2016	Moreton Bay 10th October, 2016	Nth Sunshine Coast 14th October, 2016	Paddington TBA
Sth Sunshine Coast 13th October, 2016	Toowoomba 14th October, 2016	Townsville 14th October, 2016		
<b>South Australia</b>				
Adelaide West 21st October, 2016	Mt Barker 11th October, 2016	Para Hills 19th October, 2016	South Adelaide 6th October, 2016	Unley 19th October, 2016
<b>Victoria</b>				
Brunswick 18th October, 2016	Bulleen 11th October, 2016	Burwood 5th October, 2016	Chadstone 10th October, 2016	Cobram 6th October, 2016
Craigieburn TBA	Docklands 14th October, 2016	Echuca TBA	Frankston 13th October, 2016	Geelong 11th October, 2016
Lilydale TBA	Macedon Ranges 18th October, 2016	Mordialloc 11th October, 2016	Mt Waverley 4th October, 2016	Narre Warren 11th October, 2016
Point Cook TBA	Sale 13th October, 2016	Warragul 5th October, 2016	Yarra Valley 14th October, 2016	

Western Australia				
Broome TBA	Bunbury TBA	Busselton TBA	Cockburn Central 19th October, 2016	Joondalup 20th October, 2016
Kalgoorlie 20th October, 2016	Melville 12th October, 2016	Noranda 12th October, 2016	Welshpool 18th October, 2016	
Tasmania		Northern Territory		
Hobart 30th Sept, 2016	Launceston 13th October, 2016		Darwin 10th October, 2016	

These meeting are conducted in a relaxed and informal environment to promote discussion amongst those attending the meetings.

No meeting in your area?

We are always on the lookout for facilitators to run meetings in their local area so if you are interested please contact Carmel Wright [here](#).



ICB Network Meetings are proudly supported by MYOB

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## Other Things Happening in the World

### Unfair Contracts, It Gets Worse

Unfair, extended and exorbitant terms in contracts.

We have previously released information to warn your clients about "interesting contracts", [Are you being hoodwinked?](#)

Today I have seen a contract for a 5 year period with monthly payments for \$35k+ in total. Clauses include 'no termination allowed'. And 6 months written notice for a termination, otherwise it automatically renews.

Please warn your clients.

We consider the terms of these contracts to be unacceptable.

We also understand that there are phone calls happening where the person says they are required to conduct a FairWork audit and guess what..... It wasn't a FairWork phone call. And guess what ..... The audit found they had to engage a certain HR firm for an exorbitant fee.

Refer also to [ICB's July 2016 'Special' eBrief](#) regarding Mislead, Hoodwinked, Deceived and Generally Misinformed about HR Providers.



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# Xerocon 2016 Report

ICB attended Xerocon, this year held in Brisbane at the Brisbane Convention Centre on 8 - 9 September 2016.



Overall the event was well-run and delivered a great selection of topics from product releases to industry updates to ethics and mindfulness.

This year ICB was one of the exhibitors, which gave us the chance to meet in person with many current ICB members and to talk to many prospective members.

We have extracted reports on a few of the sessions: for the full report, [see here](#).

## Accounting 2020 - A Vision for Where our Industry is Going - Rod Drury CEO and Founder of Xero

Rod started bookkeeping in high school; he loved solving the problems and doing the trial balances journal entries. There is an elegance to getting the debits to equal the credits in the double entry accounting system that has been going for six centuries. Xero is founded on the double entry accounting system. Xero is enhancing their visibility of the underlying journal entries behind each transaction.

- Xero offers multi-perspective general ledger (i.e., reports can be viewed as cash or accrual).
- Relational reporting by tracking categories to keep the chart of accounts manageable.
- Currency at core. A clean way of managing multi-currency.
- Report codes to standardise reporting categories.
- Report templates combined with the codes allows 'cross-practice' reporting.
- High integrity accounting.
- Integration of many aspects of the financial web.
- Greater level of automation but with human review to create the continuous certification of the financials of a business.
- Assurance dashboard to show who's been doing what in the file, allowing greater security and accountability.
- Advisors become the endorsers of the financials.



## Coming Soon

- Explorer functions (see previous notes)
- Xero has a big role in gathering data about the small business economy, bringing data from different sources into one place. Accounting software is the means to get true insight into what is going on in business.
- Multi-tenanted data base
- Single global platform
- Move all subscribers to AWS platform (Amazon web services)
- Machine learning and artificial intelligence to make things “really easy”. ICB Comment: the machine learning techniques with aspects of Artificial Intelligence that was presented bring efficiency to the checking, reviewing and fixing work that we do. We see this bringing increased efficiency and ability to enhance the integrity behind the data in the business files.
- Find and recode data has been investigated. Xero looked at what was actually recoded – e.g., most have been recoded from sales and general expenses. From this information Xero can adjust what options are listed in drop-down menus.

They are applying machine learning to accounting now, to make it easier for business owners to do their thing and advisors to do theirs, rather than owners trying to be bookkeepers with no training.

- "Bank rec goes away with 9 out of 10 transactions automatically allocated". We wonder how the bank rec gets done when 1 out of 10 transactions still has to be manually allocated.
- Coding and allocation time is reduced, but it doesn't go away. Xero is looking to massively reduce the areas for error the business owner has.
- Xero will be a super computer for each business owner.
- 50 million business pages are now on Facebook. They are creating a chatbot for Facebook messenger to integrate with Xero. Rod gave a demonstration of this impressive, fast and powerful tool for discovering the entire Xero ecosystem - personal accounts, who owes money, how to find an advisor, what apps can be recommended - all within minutes from a chatbot.
- They are now talking about linking the chatbot to your advisor website. Customers can contact you whenever they like and the chatbot will initiate discussion, which you can then continue in person later.

Xero started only 10 years ago and yet they have already had to rebuild completely their software. All their partners are also having to re-platform to stay current and viable.

All the innovation they are doing for small business is applicable to medium business. There is a difficult area for small business as they grow when they cannot afford the big expensive solutions, but they need more than the small business offerings. Effort is being put into developing solutions for the medium businesses in conjunction with add on applications.

We are entering the golden age for smart services businesses. You have to "productise your business so you can continue to grow....The next ten years is going to be fun"

Rod finished with this: "Accounting is now a sexy space"...

## The Currency of the New Economy is Trust - Rachel Botsman

### Why do we trust who we do?

Technology allows us to trust individuals we might never have been introduced to prior to the current technology. E.g., Airbnb or Uber could not exist without global online technology. Collaborative consumption is a concept that is changing our culture.

"Trust is a risk assessment of how likely it is that things will go right" - this is very rational, doesn't take into account the intuitive or instinctual.

Trust is a confident relationship with the unknown. The force that gets us from the known to the unknown is trust.

How to create trust in an organisation? Reduce the unknown. The unknown creates uncertainty which is destabilising for some people. Some are more comfortable with the trusting the unknown than others. Managers have to find the balance.

Trust signals vary according to the context. Some are more important or valuable than others.

A trust leap occurs when we take a risk to do something previously unknown or engage in some way with the unknown, e.g., being willing to buy from an unknown person selling on eBay.

The "blockchain" is an enormous trust leap that will transform the world. (The blockchain was developed by bitcoin, and is a distributed and continuously evolving database with a high level of security).

Change at a cultural and societal level can only transform as fast as people will trust it. Trust has evolved from being a largely local affair (i.e., you would know who you were dealing with in your local community), to institutional trust (i.e., you know the institution and trust it, even if you don't know the individual you are dealing with), to distributed (global) trust where you may not know the person or institute you are dealing with.

Trust in institutions has been eroded by corporations behaving badly and unethically. They asked people to trust them without them being transparent. But now the move is towards transparency, ethics, accountability and real content.

We are currently progressing from a local village mentality to a global village mentality; personalised interactions on a global scale.

The trust stack - trust the idea / concept, then trust the platform then trust the other user. One of the enemies of trust is apathy. Being unwilling to take the trust leap and try something new.

Airbnb is now more valuable than Hilton (the closest competitor as a hospitality provider).

How do you get people who have never met to trust each other? Assess the blocks to trust. What trust state is your client in? Low trust or high trust? You relate to them differently according to their trust level. E.g., Airbnb provides different content on their website based on how a first time user uses their website.

Regardless of your service, you have to build a community of trustworthy people / products / services.

People trust based on gut instinct very often... But if that was a great barometer, then why do so many people get defrauded in one way and another? Trustworthiness must be demonstrated by competence, reliability and honesty. Trust requires effort on our part to assess these qualities and measurements. Reputation is the sum of what an individual or community thinks of you. The peer review and rating system does encourage people to behave better. And this has not yet been explored fully. Will reputation become more valuable and powerful in future - more than money or qualification?

The real disruption happening is not about technology - it's a profound shift in trust. Technology is enabling this shift in trust.

## Xero Product Updates

Various presenters - Laura Cardinal, Peter Harvey, Sonya Jones and Oliver Furniss

Xero is focused on building not just accounting software but a whole business ecosystem. They are looking to solve all kinds of problems for business owners, not just accounting issues. For example, integrating a log of emails from within the software assists the business owner in many ways.

There have been 1,400 updates to products this year. Currently there are 717,000 subscribers to Xero and over 500 apps that integrate with Xero are available now.

Accounting software that is secure, efficient, informed and connected. Business owners can be closer to their customers and advisors.

Currently there is a big focus on safety and security. Always check your last login location. Use the assurance dashboard to look for anomalies and to highlight potential fraud. Always use two step authentication.

Xero continue to evolve the product to automate as much as possible for the business owner. Business financial information is easier to access to allow the business owner to make better business decisions.

## Product Updates

- Report Templates - allows advisor with different types of businesses with different charts of accounts to be mapped to your own templates. Report customisation allows grouping of accounts as desired. New reports index
- Bringing out better reporting for tracking categories.
- Period-to-date pickers
- % columns
- Better speed and performance
- Fixed assets

- Plans to integrate with ATO to be able to file all forms online from software.
- The majority of journals are only 2 lines - Xero has introduced the auto balance line to calculate the debit / credit amount.
- New report called “uncoded statement lines” to email to clients for their attention
- Running balance will be brought into statement tab
- Source of line will be visible on both bank and account tab
- Other reports to show all interactions with a particular customer or supplier
- Invoice reminders automated
- Find an advisor on mobile phone
- Integration with Gmail and Office 365

## Coming Next Year

- Expense management project
- Jobs / projects management
- Quotes on mobile phones
- Ability to switch and search between organisations
- Early payment discounts options
- BPAY integration
- Improved PayPal integration and fast linking back to Xero invoice; automatic creation of PayPal fees spend money
- Copy chart of accounts, bank rules, contacts and tracking categories from one organisation to another for fast set-up
- Connections to bank, government, advisors, credit scoring agencies, Google, Facebook and other applications allows greater business networking opportunities. This means the contacts (within Xero) are accessing a whole business directory behind it - e.g., address, ABN, contact details etc. You can also purchase a report for credit score when entering a new customer.

## Other Sessions

There were many really interesting sessions, please see the [full report](#) for all sessions

- Rewiring the Small Business Economy in our Region – Keynote Speech from Trent Innes and Anna Curzon
- Inside the Panama Papers – Paul Ferrell and Dr Shumi Akhtar with MC Kate Mills
- The Changing Industry Landscape Discussion Panel: Colin Walker – ATO, Ian Taylor – TPB, Lisa Greig - Tax and Super Australia, Anthony Migliardi – Xero; Hosted by Mel Power and James Solomons, Xero
- The New Network - Andy Lark
- 365 Shades of White - Rachel Robertson
- Promoting Yourself and Your Services - Mel Power
- Using Xero HQ - Matthew Prouse
- Tips and Tricks - James Solomons and Charles Kivana
- The Bottom Line on Ethics - Dr Michael Fraser

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# Australia's New Payments Platform

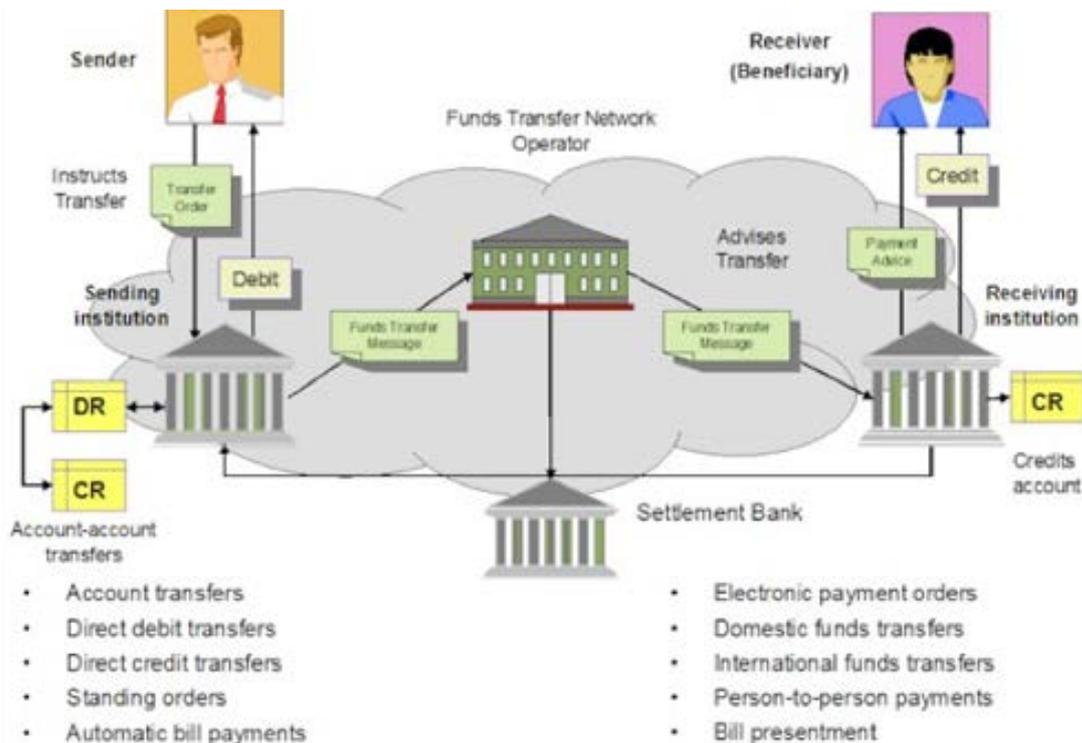
## Aussies to get Instant Bank Payments to Mobiles, E-mail

Information provided by [itnews](#).

Bpay is first to jump on board national service.

Payments provider, Bpay, will provide the first service on top of Australia's new national payments platform, and allow individuals to transfer funds to others using just their mobile phone number and email address.

Australia's [new payments platform \(NPP\)](#) - which is set to launch in 2017 - will include an 'initial convenience service' (ICS) that will let consumers immediately make or receive electronic payments.



Bpay has been contracted to build the service. From 2017, all customers of the [12 financial institutions](#) signed up to the NPP will be able to send payments in real-time to someone's mobile number, email address or ABN.

It will be the first service to run on Australia's new national payments platform, which is being built by Fiserv and Swift. The NPP is made up of a base infrastructure that all Australian financial institutions connect to, allowing payments to be made in real-time between banks and their customers. It will support overlay services - such as the ICS - which will allow banks and financial institutions to offer tailored services. The ICS will mean that all customers of CBA, NAB, ANZ, Westpac and others will be able to enter a person's email or mobile phone number into their mobile banking application to transfer them funds.

"A good example would be to say you've got friends buying concert tickets. You type in their mobile phone number into your banking front end and the NPP resolves that phone number into bank account details it has stored," Bpay CEO John Banfield said. "Then the payment goes through to that person's account in real-time ... and you can have confidence it's gone through to the right person."

Banfield said all participating banks had committed to have their mobile banking front-ends equipped for the service by the 2017 go-live date.

The NPP was borne out of [the Reserve Bank of Australia's ambition](#) to have all the nation's financial institutions facilitating real-time payments by 2016.

Once it goes live, the NPP will enable same-day settlement of bulk and direct payments, real-time retail payments, and the ability to finalise low-value payments outside banking hours. The RBA has also proposed that by 2017, the system will enable banks to ditch BSBs and account numbers in favour of a single identifying number for receivers of payments.

Bpay - which is owned by Australia's big four banks - processed more than 368 million payments worth around \$325 billion in the last financial year.

[Read more here.](#)

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## This Month From the ICB

### What's New this Month from ICB

New and updated resources for September 2016

- [ICB Presents: Global Bookkeeping Week 2016 Webinar](#)
- [August 2016 Network Meeting Webinar](#)
- [September 2016 Network Meeting Webinar](#)
- [Commission Only Employees](#)
- [ICB Definitive Guide to Terminations 2016 - 2017](#)
- [August 2016 Members Newsletter Podcast](#)
- [Foreign Currency / Multi Currency](#)
- [Long Service Leave](#)



[Click here to view the latest news for the month.](#)

[ICB Q & A Space](#) - You can check out all the latest threads here. Feel free to ask your questions regarding any issue you may be having or if you require clarification, we are here to help. The [Latest Updates](#) lists all the topics in order of replies.

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## September 2016 eBrief Newsletter for Your Business



The September 2016 Bookkeeping eBrief is now available for you to download.

- [September 2016 Bookkeeping eBrief Newsletter](#)

[Back copies are available here.](#)

*"The best bookkeepers using the best resources".*

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## Become a Reckon One Cloud Advisor

Reckon One Cloud Advisor - Come Partner with us...



Andrew Hellier, Partner Program Manager

Here at Reckon, our partners are not only a core part of our business but 'trusted advisors' to small and medium business across Australia, NZ and the UK. Reckon Partners assist customers with bookkeeping, financial management accounting and with the introduction of the most suitable software solutions for their clients' unique business requirements. Our partner network includes accountants, bookkeepers and consultants and range in size from sole practitioners to large multinational financial accounting firms. Their goal is to empower SMEs to become more successful in the modern business era with the best accounting solutions such as [Reckon One](#).

### Software that's Perfect for any Business

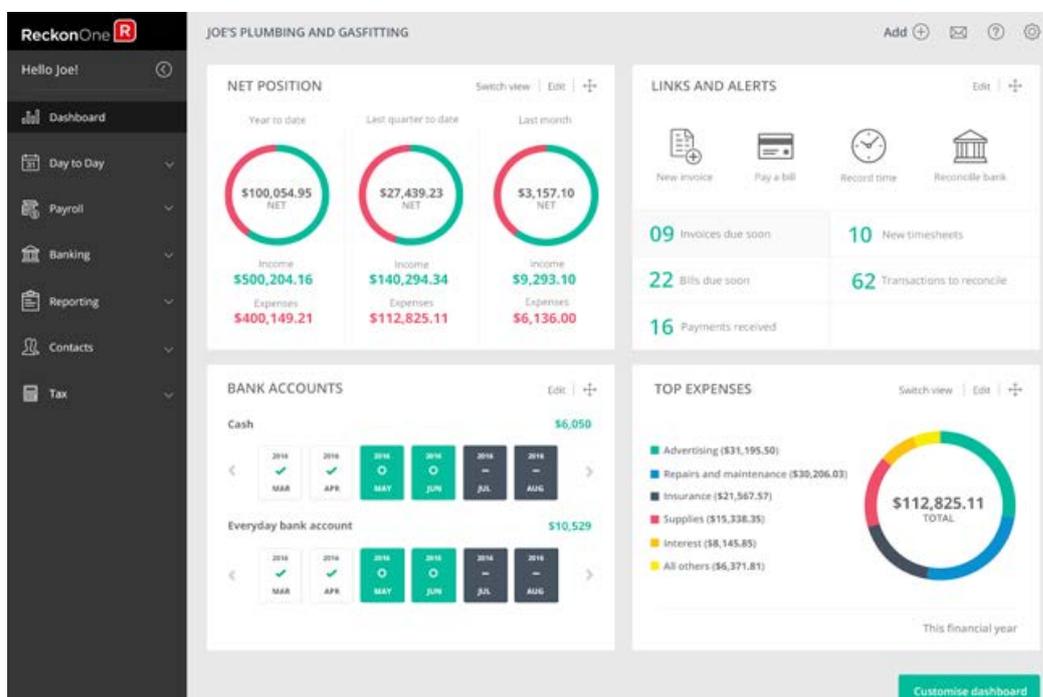
Reckon One, accounting software with a difference, with its true SaaS model that allows Reckon Partners to implement a cost effective, user friendly and tailored accounting solution to their clients current and future requirements.

### Partner Support

To support our growing partner network, Reckon employs a dedicated partner relationship team that spans the country and complements an Australian based partner focused contact centre. Additionally, we have an active online partner community allowing 24/7 peer to peer support. We're focused on helping our partners grow their business through close collaboration and great relationships with the Reckon partner team.

We've introduced a new complimentary partner program - **Reckon Cloud Advisor**

Our Cloud Advisor program is free for professionals wishing to become a Reckon One Partner! Once you're a Reckon One Cloud Advisor you'll obtain access to the software, marketing toolkits and a dedicated Australian based support team. After introducing five paying clients you'll start earning commissions and get a listing on our [Find a Reckon Advisor](#) website. If you would like to become a Reckon One expert you can simply pass the Reckon One certification and then you're a Reckon One Certified Cloud Advisor.



To support you to become a Certified Cloud Advisor we will be hosting many training events in the coming months around Australia, to find out when we are coming to your town please click [here](#).

Want to know more? We'll be happy to answer your questions. Please contact us via email at [professionalpartner@reckon.com](mailto:professionalpartner@reckon.com) or call us on 1300 653 449

Or apply online today to become a Reckon Cloud Advisor [here](#).

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## From the ATO

### AUSKey Updates

#### AUSKey for Chrome and Firefox browsers

AUSKey is incompatible with certain browsers, including Google Chrome and soon Mozilla Firefox. To fix this issue, if you are a Windows user, you can now install a 'browser extension' to access the portals or other government services that require an AUSKey.

Chrome and Firefox browser extensions for Mac AUSKey users are currently under development and expected to be available later in the year. We will let you know when these are available.

#### Chrome Browser

To use your AUSKey with a Chrome browser, download the browser extension at [Download software for AUSKey](#). Or login to the Tax or BAS agent portal from a Chrome browser and follow the prompts.

#### Firefox Browser

Firefox upgrades early next year will mean that Firefox will no longer be compatible with AUSKey. The browser extension that lets you continue to use Firefox with your AUSKey after the upgrade is available now at [Download software for AUSKey](#).

You can download the browser extension at any time.

#### See Also

- [AUSKey compatibility](#)

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### BASAAG - ATO Report August 2016

ICB attended the BAS Agent Association Group on 11 August, 2016. Topics covered were the major upgrade planned for ATO systems later in the year, Single Touch Payroll and Simpler BAS.

For the full report, [click here](#).



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# ATO Reports on Tax Scams for 2016

## Statistics for January to June 2016

- 54,696 scams were reported to the ATO
- 2,956 of those managed to get people to divulge personal information
- 289 of those ended by being tricked to pay money to the scammer
- \$1.5million paid

Direct payment into an account was the most popular with \$700k+.

iTunes cards were the next most popular \$400k.

The largest number of people affected was in the 40 to 60 year old bracket, with the largest amount of money extracted from the over 60 age group.



## Phone Scams are the Most Regular - 95% of Notifications

What the ATO is doing about it:

- They actively try to shut down the phone numbers used
- VOIP phones pretending to be local numbers can be computers from anywhere in the world, and are very hard to shut down

## Identity Theft and Personal Information Divulged

The ATO moves quickly to protect people's identity, reissue new identification and follow up on attempts to imitate the victim. Check out our resources on what to do if your identity is stolen.

## Load&Go Cards (Australia Post)

There was a flurry of scammers being paid by the Australia Post Load&Go reloadable visa cards. The ATO has worked with Australia Post, (and now also Apple for iTunes cards), to have systems in place for large purchases of such cards and to endeavour to prevent the use of those cards for any payments. People will be asked why they are buying them and very public notices about not using iTunes cards to pay tax bills are being issued.

## Actions

Do not pay anyone claiming to be from the ATO by iTunes or any other dubious manner.

Obtain the payment codes from the BAS or Business Portal or ATO notices - pay by Bpay and match the ATO reference number.

If you suspect a scam, phone the dedicated scam line: 1800 008 540, report email scams to [ReportEmailFraud@ato.gov.au](mailto:ReportEmailFraud@ato.gov.au)

## References

- [ICB - eBrief - Advise Your Clients of Current Scams](#)
- [ICB - Security and Privacy](#)
- [ICB - Support if Your Identity is Stolen](#)
- [ICB - Stay and Secure Online](#)

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## Upcoming Portal Maintenance

See [this link for scheduled times](#) for the full guide to system maintenance and issues.

The portals will be unavailable at the following times for scheduled system maintenance.

Scheduled Start Time	Scheduled End Time
Saturday 1st October 10.00pm AEST	Sunday 2nd October 7.00am AEST
Saturday 5th November 9.00pm AEDST	Sunday 6th November 9.00am AEDST

For more details regarding BAS Agent portal maintenance, [click here](#).

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## ICB Membership Statistics as at 31st August, 2016

6,643

3,485 Members maintain Fellow, Member, Associate, Affiliate and Educator membership.

ICB also has 20 Accredited Training Provider Members and 3,138 Student Members.

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## ICB Supporters and Sponsors



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Please note that, in between newsletter issues, articles maybe published straight to the *Latest News* section of the website.

The Institute of Certified Bookkeepers complies with the Spam Act 2003 and we have a documented [Spam Policy](#) on our website. You can unsubscribe from ICB newsletters and updates [here](#).

*ICB's Newsletter* contains news articles, links and regular sections that we feel will be of interest. If there is anything that you would like to see, whether a regular feature or a one-off, please let us know. Email your ideas to [admin@icb.org.au](mailto:admin@icb.org.au)

**The** monthly Newsletter for members of the Institute of Certified Bookkeepers.

A selection of those articles listed are accessible by ICB Members **only** - ICB Members, you will need to be logged onto the ICB website to view all the articles in full.

The newsletter of ICB is designed as information and resources for Bookkeepers with clients and also bookkeepers in employment.

The content of the newsletter maybe relevant in part or in whole to other publications or other purposes.

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