

TAXATION

Combatting illegal phoenixing Bill

Bill to implement new laws to combat illegal phoenixing such as holding directors accountable is now awaiting Assent.

Bushfire assistance Bill receives Assent

Bill to make certain bushfire assistance payments non-assessable non-exempt income has received Royal Assent.

R&D incentive Bill passes Reps

Bill that proposes to increase R&D expenditure threshold has passed the House of Reps without amendment and moves to the Senate.

Revenue forgone from tax concessions

Treasury has released the Tax Benchmarks and Variations Statement 2019 that provides information on the amount of revenue the government forgoes via concessions etc.

Accountant charged in alleged \$8m tax fraud

The Australian Federal Police has reported that an accountant has appeared in court charged with 27 tax evasion and fraud-related offences.

ATO service commitments mostly met

ATO has released the results of its latest performance against its service commitments for 2019-20.

Employee share schemes: Parliamentary inquiry announced

House of Reps Standing Committee on Tax Revenue has announced an inquiry into the tax treatment of employee share schemes.

Tax treatment of corporate bonds: inquiry announced

House of Reps Standing Committee on Tax and Revenue has announced an inquiry into the development of the Australia retail corporate bond market.

ATO legal advice on Centrelink robodebts released

Emails between senior ATO officials revealing the legal advice on ATO garnishee notices re Robodebts raised by Centrelink has been released.

Draft effective lives for various industries

ATO has released draft lists of effective lives for the childcare services, aircraft manufacturing and repair, funeral, and general practice medical industries.

IGT releases edition 10 of IGoT news

Inspector-General of Taxation and Tax Ombudsman has released the most recent IGT newsletter.

GST: waiver of tax invoice for corporate cards

ATO has registered a determination which allows corporate card holders to claim input tax credits without holding a tax invoice in certain circumstances.

Addendum to Ruling: carrying on an enterprise

ATO has issued an Addendum to Miscellaneous Taxation Ruling MT 2006/1 on when an entity carries on an enterprise for ABN and GST purposes.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

FinTech Sandbox Bill awaits Assent

Bill that provides exemption from the AFS licence requirements for the purposes of testing financial and credit products under certain conditions is awaiting Assent.

More draft legislation released in response to Royal Commission

Government has released more draft legislation to implement recommendations made by the Banking Royal Commission.

AMP hit with penalties for insurance churning by financial planners

Federal Court has ordered AMP pay a penalty after the Court found it failed to take reasonable steps to ensure its financial planners complied with the best interest duty.

SUPERANNUATION

Eligible rollover funds to exit super industry: Bill passes Reps

Bill to facilitate the closure of eligible rollover funds by 30 June 2021 has passed the House of Reps without amendment.

ASIC fact sheet on SMSFs – Parliamentary Committee queries data

House of Reps Standing Committee on Economics has tabled its report which scrutinised ASIC's progress on implementing changes recommended by the Royal Commission.

Protecting Super reforms: ASIC report on trustee communications

ASIC has released a report setting out the findings from its recent review of super trustees' communications with their members re recent law changes.

Super contributions to PSSAP for former public servants: Bill

Bill has been introduced in relation to contributions to Public Sector Superannuation Accumulation Plan.

REGULATOR NEWS

New ASIC powers for licensing and penalties

Bills to reform the financial sector including granting ASIC new enforcement and supervision powers have passed all stages without amendment and awaits Assent.

APRA instructions for updating Direct to APRA details

APRS has released instructions for entities to update Direct to APRA to replace AUSkey with my GovID.

AASB Weekly Update (February 13, 2020)

The *AASB Weekly Update* is the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) weekly summary of developments at the AASB and in international financial reporting. [More information here](#)

TAXATION

Combatting illegal phoenixing Bill

The [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Combating Illegal Phoenixing\) Bill 2019](#) has been passed by the Senate with minor amendments. It was returned to the House of Reps which agreed to the amendments and it now awaits assent.

The Bill as passed will:

- implement new phoenixing offences to prohibit creditor-defeating dispositions of company property, penalise those who engage in or facilitate such dispositions. Date of effect: the day after Royal Assent.
- ensure directors are held accountable for misconduct by preventing directors from improperly backdating resignations or ceasing to be a director when this would leave the company with no directors. Date of effect: The day 12 months after Royal Assent.
- allow the Commissioner to collect estimates of anticipated GST liabilities and make company directors personally liable for their company's GST liabilities in certain circumstances. Date of effect: The first day of the quarter following Royal Assent.
- extend the operation of s 8AAZLG of the TAA to authorise the Commissioner to retain tax refunds where a taxpayer has failed to lodge a return or provide other information to the Commissioner that may affect the amount the Commissioner refunds. Date of effect: The first day of the quarter following Royal Assent.

The Senate amendments will require that an independent review is done at the end of five years to review the operation of the phoenixing measures, anticipated GST liabilities and retention of tax refunds. These Senate amendments were passed unanimously.

Bushfire assistance Bill receives Assent

The [Treasury Laws Amendment \(2019-20 Bushfire Tax Assistance\) Bill 2020](#) has received Royal Assent as Act No 1 of 2020. The Bill, which had passed all stages without amendment, makes the following non-assessable non-exempt income: (i) payments made to volunteers working with a fire service of a State or Territory; and (ii) eligible relief and recovery payments and benefits provided by Australian

governments. In addition, it gives two charities (Australian Volunteers Support Trust and Community Rebuilding Trust) DGR status

Date of effect: 13 February 2020, applicable to 2019-20 and later income years.

R&D incentive Bill passes Reps

The [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Research and Development Tax Incentive\) Bill 2019](#) has been passed by the House of Reps without amendment and has now moved to the Senate. It has also been referred to the Senate Economics Legislation Committee for [inquiry](#) and report by 30 April 2020. Submissions are due by 6 March 2020.

The Bill proposes to increase the R&D expenditure threshold from \$100 million to \$150 million and make the threshold a permanent feature of the law. It also seeks to link the R&D tax offset for refundable R&D tax offset claimants to claimants' corporate tax rates plus a 13.5% premium and cap the refundability of the R&D tax offset at \$4 million per annum (however, offset amounts that relate to expenditure on clinical trials do not count towards the cap). In addition, it will increase the targeting of the Incentive to larger R&D entities with high levels of R&D intensity, reduce the benefits provided to certain entities undertaking R&D activities and increase the benefit to others.

Date of effect: Generally applicable to income years commencing on or after 1 July 2019, although some administrative amendments apply from commencement.

Revenue forgone from tax concessions

Treasury has released the [Tax Benchmarks and Variations Statement 2019](#). The Statement provides annual information on Australian Government tax benchmarks and variations, as required by s 12 of the Charter of Budget Honesty Act 1998.

Interestingly, the document is designed to provide an indication of revenue the Government foregoes by offering a range of deductions, offsets and concessions. The 10 largest measured benchmark variations and revenue forgone in 2019-20 are listed below. They are largely the same as for 2018-19, although the change in revenue forgone for the main residence exemption is significant, but the possible causes are not addressed in the Statement.

- Main residence exemption – discount component. Revenue forgone \$23 billion (\$36 billion in 2018-19).
- Concessional taxation of employer super contributions. Revenue forgone \$19.6 billion (\$17.75 billion in 2018-19).
- Main residence exemption. Revenue forgone \$19.5 billion (\$30.5 billion in 2018-19).
- Concessional taxation of superannuation entity earnings. Revenue forgone \$17.8 billion (\$19.55 billion in 2018-19).
- CGT discount for individuals and trusts. Revenue forgone \$9.480 (\$9.35 billion in 2018-19).
- GST-free food. Revenue forgone \$7.6 billion (\$7.3 billion in 2018-19).
- GST-free supplies of education. Revenue forgone \$4.85 billion (\$4.75 billion in 2018-19).
- GST-free health – medical and health services. Revenue forgone \$4.55 billion (\$4.3 billion in 2018-19).
- Financial supplies – GST input taxed treatment. Revenue forgone \$3.65 billion (\$3.6 billion in 2018-19).
- Exemption from interest withholding tax on certain securities. Revenue foregone \$2.45 billion (\$2.36 billion in 2018-19).

Accountant charged in alleged \$8m tax fraud

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) has [reported](#) that an accountant has appeared in the Downing Centre Local Court, Sydney, charged with 27 tax evasion and fraud-related offences for allegedly attempting to evade more than \$8 million in tax for a client.

The AFP alleged that the 62-year-old female accountant "promoted and facilitated an illegal family trust arrangement for her client for the purposes of minimising tax liability". The AFP also alleged that the accountant knowingly lodged nine false income tax returns on behalf of the family trust. As a result, the trust beneficiaries allegedly avoided paying more than \$8m in income tax.

Further, the AFP has alleged that the accountant "concealed, destroyed and fabricated evidence" in response to an ATO audit in an effort to make the false income tax returns appear legitimate. This includes allegedly making false representations about the family trust and company records to the Tax Commissioner, as well as submitting 37 false or misleading documents. Importantly, the AFP is not alleging that the client or the accused's firm at the time had any knowledge of the alleged offending. AFP Commander Kirsty Schofield, Investigations Eastern Command, said the AFP is leading the investigation of this matter as part of the joint-agency [Serious Financial Crime Taskforce \(SFCT\)](#).

ATO service commitments mostly met

The ATO has released the results of its latest performance against its [service commitments](#) for 2019-20.

While the ATO reported that it largely met or exceeded its performance commitments against most assessment indicators, it failed to meet its commitment to finalise at least 60% of superannuation guarantee (SG) employee notification cases within four months of creation. Instead, the ATO reported that it only finalised 17% of SG employee notification cases within four months for the year to date as at 31 December 2019 (down from 51% for 2018-19).

The ATO also reported that it has met or exceeded its [2019-20 IT systems availability targets](#) in the most recent months.

Employee share schemes: Parliamentary inquiry announced

The House of Reps Standing Committee on Tax and Revenue has announced an [inquiry into the tax treatment of employee share schemes \(ESS\)](#), following a request by the Treasurer. The [Terms of Reference](#) require the Standing Committee to investigate the effectiveness of the 2015 ESS changes and examine:

- how effective the changes in 2015 have been in their goal of bolstering entrepreneurship and supporting start-up companies;
- the costs and benefits of these concessional taxation treatments, and deferred taxing points for options, to the broader community;
- whether the current tax treatment of ESS remains relevant to start-up companies and whether any changes are appropriate to ensure the taxation treatment remains relevant;
- how companies currently structure their ESS arrangements and how taxation treatment affects these decisions; and
- the challenges faced by companies in setting up an ESS arrangement and how the standard documents by the ATO, and introduced in 2015, assist this process and whether additional improvements should be made.

Submissions are due by 19 March 2020.

Tax treatment of corporate bonds: inquiry announced

The House of Reps Standing Committee on Tax and Revenue has announced an [inquiry into the development of the Australian retail corporate bond market](#), following a request by the Treasurer. The inquiry will examine:

- the tax treatment of corporate bonds for both issuers and investors to determine whether there are any impediments in the tax system to the issue of corporate bonds compared to other forms of debt financing for business;
- related impediments within the *Corporations Act 2001* to the further development of the corporate bond market, including how they interact with the tax system; and
- comparable policy settings in other jurisdictions, with a focus on those jurisdictions that are major sources of debt finance for companies operating in Australia.

The [Terms of Reference](#) note that the Australian retail bond market has remained small in comparison to similar countries and, in terms of the amount of debt raised, Australian-based businesses make greater use of offshore bond markets. This is despite previous Government amendments to the regulatory regime for corporate debt to facilitate a deeper and more active retail corporate bond market.

Submissions are due by 19 March 2020.

ATO legal advice on Centrelink robodebts released

The Senate Economics Committee has taken the unusual step of releasing sensitive legal emails between senior ATO officials revealing legal advice that ATO garnishee notices in respect of Robodebts raised by Centrelink were not legal. The sensitive legal emails were provided by the ATO to the Senate Economics Committee as [answers to questions on notice](#) in relation to the Committee's inquiry into Centrelink's online income compliance program (Robodebts).

On 19 November 2019, the Department of Human Services (DHS), now Services Australia, [announced](#) that it had begun pausing debt recovery action through the garnishee of tax refunds for those who had outstanding debts raised through the online income compliance program using income averaging. At the same time, the emails reveal that the ATO General Counsel informed the Commissioner that any ATO garnishee notices received from DHS in relation to Robodebts were not lawful as they were not in respect of a valid legal debt due to the Commonwealth.

Draft effective lives for various industries

The ATO has released draft lists of effective lives for assets used in the following industries:

- [Childcare services industry](#) - these draft effective lives are proposed to apply to assets purchased or otherwise first used or installed ready to use on or after 1 July 2020 (within the meaning of s 40-95 of the ITAA97). Some assets with their effective life in (years) include augmented reality interactive sandboxes, furniture used by children, and playsets.
- [Aircraft manufacturing and repair services industry](#) - the proposed list of effective life determinations will apply to assets purchased or otherwise first used or installed ready to use on or after 1 July 2020 (within the meaning of s 40-95 of the ITAA 1997).
- [funeral, crematorium, and cemetery services industry](#) and [general practice medical services industry](#) - the proposed list of effective life determinations will apply to assets purchased or otherwise first used or installed ready to use on or after 1 July 2020 (within the meaning of s 40-95 of the ITAA 1997).

Comments due by 28 February 2020.

IGT releases edition 10 of IGoT news

The Inspector-General of Taxation and Taxation Ombudsman, Karen Payne, has released [edition 10](#) of the IGT's newsletter - "IGot News". This edition highlights what the Inspector-General and Taxation Ombudsman (IGTO) and her team have achieved in the last six months including the on-going inquiry into the performance of the IGTO by the Senate Economics Legislation Committee. The newsletter also covers some up-to-date news of the IGTO:

- Two new investigations - the IGTO is currently reviewing the (i) increasing trend in the levels of undisputed debt; and (ii) ATO's systems and processes for dealing with deceased estates. The newsletter provides a link to submission instructions and the IGTO welcomes submissions from the public;
- Corporate Plan 2020-2023 - outlines actions and priorities of the IGTO;
- Q1 report for FY20 is coming soon - a preview of complaint statistics is shared in this newsletter;

Overview of system investigations to-date - 49 investigations so far that "have touched on all areas of good tax administration".

GST: waiver of tax invoice for corporate cards

The ATO has registered [GST: Waiver of Tax Invoice Requirement \(Corporate Card Statements\) Determination 2020](#) which allows corporate card holders (under s 29-10(3) of the GST Act) to claim input tax credits without holding a tax invoice in certain circumstances.

The determination repeals and replaces GST: Waiver of Tax Invoice Requirement (Corporate Card Statements) Legislative Instrument 2017.

Date of effect: Applies to net amounts for tax periods that start on or after 14 August 2017, being the application date in the previous determination.

Addendum to Ruling: carrying on an enterprise

The ATO has issued an [Addendum to Miscellaneous Taxation Ruling MT 2006/1](#), its ruling on when an entity carries on an enterprise for ABN and GST purposes. The Addendum updates MT 2006/1 to include references to recent GST rulings and to TR 2019/1 (on when a company carries on a business for income tax purposes).

MT 2006/1 includes an example of a holding entity that is not carrying on an enterprise (see para 205). Specifically, a trustee passively holds all shares in three companies but has no involvement in the running of the companies and provides no services to the group. The Addendum adds a footnote, which explains that the example at para 205 is distinguishable from an example in TR 2019/1, where a holding company is carrying on a business because it undertakes more activities in managing the company group.

Date of effect: The Addendum applies from 5 February 2020.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

FinTech Sandbox Bill awaits Assent

The [Treasury Laws Amendment \(2018 Measures No 2\) Bill 2019](#) has passed all stages without amendment and effectively awaits Royal Assent. The Bill provides for exemptions from the Australian Financial Services (AFS) licence requirements for the purposes of testing financial and credit products and services for 24 months

under certain conditions (the FinTech regulatory sandbox). The Bill also amends the ITAA 1997 to make minor changes to ensure that the venture capital and early stage investor tax concessions operate as intended. For example, clarifying the treatment of valuation year capital gain, and consequential amendments for MITs and the definition of public trading trust.

Date of effect: The regulation-making powers for the FinTech sandbox exemptions will commence the day after Royal Assent. The ITAA 1997 amendments to the venture capital and early stage investor tax concessions generally apply from 1 July 2018, while the amendments for investments by MITs in both ESVCLPs and VCLPs apply from 1 July 2016.

More draft legislation released in response to Royal Commission

The Government has released [exposure draft legislation](#) proposing to implement 22 (of the 76) recommendations made by the Banking Royal Commission, and two additional commitments. These measures were previously announced by the Government as part of its formal response to the Hayne Royal Commission.

- [Ongoing fee arrangement and disclosure of lack of independence](#) (Recommendations 2.1 and 2.2)
- [No other role or office](#) (Recommendation 3.1)
- [Advice fees in superannuation](#) (Recommendations 3.2 and 3.3)
- [Superannuation regulator roles](#) (Recommendation 3.8, 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5)
- [Strengthening breach reporting](#) (Recommendations 1.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9 and 7.2)
- [ASIC Directions Power](#) (Recommendation 7.2)
- [Enforceability of financial services industry codes](#) (Recommendation 1.15)
- [Financial Regulator Oversight Authority](#) (Recommendation 6.14)
- [No hawking of financial products](#) (Recommendation 3.4 and 4.1)
- [Restricting use of the term "Insurance" and "Insurer"](#) (Recommendation 4.2)
- [Duty to take reasonable care not to make a misrepresentation to an insurer](#) (Recommendation 4.5)
- [Deferred sales model for add-on insurance](#) (Recommendation 4.3)
- [Cap on vehicle dealer commissions](#) (Recommendation 4.4)

Date of effect: Generally from 1 July 2020.

Submissions are due by 28 February 2020.

AMP hit with penalties for insurance churning by financial planners

The Federal Court has ordered AMP Financial Planning Pty Ltd (AMPFP) to pay a \$5.175m penalty after the Court found it failed to take reasonable steps to ensure its financial planners complied with the best interests duty and related obligations under the Corporations Act: [ASIC v AMP Financial Planning Pty Ltd \(No 2\) \[2020\] FCA 69](#) (Federal Court, Lee J, 5 February 2020).

ASIC alleged that a number of AMPFP's financial planners engaged in "rewriting conduct", ie providing advice that results in the cancellation of the client's existing insurance policies and the taking out of similar replacement policies by way of a new application rather than through a transfer. By cancelling insurance policies and advising clients to submit new applications (ie "churning"), ASIC alleged that around 40 clients were exposed to a number of significant risks and the planners received higher commissions than they would have by simply transferring the policies.

The Court imposed a total penalty of \$5.175m after finding six contraventions of s 961L of the Corporations Act 2001 by AMPFP for failing to take reasonable steps to ensure its financial planners complied with the best interests duty and related obligations under ss 961B, 961G and 961J of the Corporations Act. The Court considered that the rewriting conduct by one of AMP's financial planners was "morally indefensible". The Court accepted ASIC's case that, having become aware of the advisers' conduct, it was necessary for AMPFP to ascertain the extent of breaches by other planners to meet its legal obligations. AMPFP failed to do so, and the Court found, "the lack of an effective response is an illustration of how badly things had gone wrong within the organisation". The Court also indicated that it will make orders requiring AMPFP to undertake a review and remediation program to ensure financial planning clients who were subject to rewriting conduct are detected and properly remediated, as well as, a forward looking compliance plan that seeks to prohibit rewriting conduct through improved communication, training and supervision by AMPFP of its financial planners.

SUPERANNUATION

Eligible rollover funds to exit super industry: Bill passes Reps

The [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Reuniting More Superannuation\) Bill 2020](#) has been passed by the House of Reps without amendment and moves to the Senate. It proposes amendments to facilitate the closure of eligible rollover funds (ERFs) by 30 June 2021. The Bill will amend the SIS Act and the *Superannuation (Unclaimed Money and Lost Members) Act 1999* (SUMLM Act) to require the balance of all ERF accounts less than \$6,000 on 1 June 2020 to be transferred to the ATO by 30 June 2020. All remaining ERF accounts will be required to be transferred to the ATO by 30 June 2021. An ERF will be able to voluntarily report and pay the balance of an account to the ATO from 1 June 2020 up until the day when the statement and payment is due. The ATO will have the power under the existing provisions of the SUMLM Act to proactively consolidate this money into an active account for the person, without needing to be directed to do so by the individual.

Date of effect: The Bill will commence the day after Royal Assent. Super funds will be prevented from transferring new amounts to an ERF from the later of seven days after Royal Assent or 1 May 2020. Further, APRA will not be able to accept an application to operate a new ERF from the day after Royal Assent.

ASIC fact sheet on SMSFs – Parliamentary Committee queries data

The House of Reps Standing Committee on Economics has tabled its report, [Review of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission Annual Report 2018](#). The Committee's report scrutinised ASIC's progress on implementing the changes recommended by the Hayne Banking Royal Commission. It considered ASIC's program of change, including its new enforcement strategy, which focuses on increased and accelerated court-based outcomes and the use of new and tougher penalties; and its more intensive supervisory approach, which aims to improve the culture and behaviour of financial firms.

The Committee said it will continue to scrutinise ASIC's performance, particularly ASIC's ongoing implementation of the Royal Commission's recommendations and the strengthening of ASIC's enforcement culture. It also scrutinised advice provided by ASIC to the public. Among other things, the Committee probed ASIC about the accuracy and balance of its factsheet, [Self-managed superannuation funds: Are they for you?](#)

Protecting Super reforms: ASIC report on trustee communications

ASIC has released a report ([REP 655](#)) setting out the findings from its recent review of superannuation trustees' communications with their members about changes introduced by the *Treasury Laws Amendment (Protecting Your Superannuation Package) Act 2019* (PYSP). These reforms required super accounts with balances under \$6,000 that had been inactive for 16 months to be paid to the ATO for consolidation into an active account for the member. Insurance within super also became "opt-in" for members whose accounts had been inactive for 16 months. Fees were also capped at 3% per year for account balances under \$6,000, while exit fees were banned from 1 July 2019.

While ASIC found some good member communication, it said there were some common problems which suggested trustees were not always sufficiently focused on their members' needs. For example, some of the communication material reviewed by ASIC did not provide sufficient context for the reforms or adequately explain what the changes meant for members. Other communications used complex language, promoted a particular option that may not have been suitable for the member or failed to include relevant information about the member's existing superannuation arrangements that would have been helpful. ASIC said it will provide feedback directly to the trustees who participated in the review, and consider regulatory action if further issues are identified.

Super contributions to PSSAP for former public servants: Bill

The [Superannuation Amendment \(PSSAP Membership\) Bill 2020](#), has been introduced in the House of Reps, propose to enable certain current and former Commonwealth employees and statutory office holders to continue to be, or to become, contributory members of the Public Sector Superannuation Accumulation Plan (PSSAP). The Bill will allow former PSSAP contributory members to use their existing PSSAP account for contributions in respect of any employment (not just employment that attracts an SG obligation) and if they wish to make other contributions, such as, non-concessional contributions.

Date of effect: The Bill will commence on a day to be fixed by Proclamation (or the day after six months from Royal Assent to the Bill).

REGULATOR NEWS

New ASIC powers for licensing and penalties

The following financial sector reform Bills have now passed all stages without amendment and effectively await Royal Assent, having been passed by the Senate:

- [Financial Sector Reform \(Hayne Royal Commission Response - Stronger Regulators \(2019 Measures\) Bill 2019](#) - grants ASIC new enforcement and supervision powers in response to the recommendations of the ASIC Enforcement Review Taskforce and Banking Royal Commission. In particular, ASIC's licensing powers have been strengthened by replacing the AFS licence requirement that a person be of "good fame and character" with an ongoing requirement that they be a "fit and proper person" at both the time of application and subsequently. ASIC's power to ban a person has been expanded to include situations where ASIC has reason to believe the person is "not adequately trained or is not competent". ASIC will also be able to make a banning order against a person that has, at least twice, been an officer of more than one corporation that was unable to pay its debts; or has, at least twice, been linked to a refusal or failure to give effect to an AFCA determination. An AFS licensee is now required to notify ASIC of a change of control. ASIC's search warrant and phone tap powers have also been harmonised. Date of effect: the day after the Bill receives Royal Assent. Although the power to share intercepted telecommunications with ASIC will also apply to information held by an interception agency before Royal Assent to the Bill.
- [Financial Sector Reform \(Hayne Royal Commission Response - Protecting Consumers \(2019 Measures\) Bill 2019](#) - introduces a best interests duty for mortgage brokers and bans certain conflicted remuneration from 1 July 2020.

In welcoming the passage of this legislation through Parliament, the Treasurer [said](#) significant progress has been made towards implementing the Government's response to the recommendations of the Banking Royal Commission. Mr Fydenberg said the Government is "on track" to meet its implementation plan which will see more than 50 commitments, close to 90% of the 76 recommendations, implemented or have legislation before parliament by mid-2020.

APRA instructions for updating Direct to APRA details

APRA has released [instructions for entities to update Direct to APRA \(D2A\)](#) to replace AUSkey with myGovID and Relationship Authorisation Manager (RAM).



APRA said all entities who use D2A must ensure that the update is successfully completed before AUSkey is decommissioned at the end of March 2020. Users of the APRA Extranet must also set up their myGovID and ensure they are authorised in RAM. The Extranet login link for myGovID will be available in March 2020.