



IPA NEWS

Recent IPA Submission

The IPA has made a submission in relation to the *Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) Performance Audit – Australian Securities and Investments Commission’s (ASIC) regulation of registered company auditors*.

TAXATION

Electric vehicle home charging rate (PCG 2024/2DC)

The ATO has issued a draft update to PCG 2024/2 to include a methodology to calculate the cost of electricity when a PHEV is charged at an employee’s or individual’s home.

Transfer pricing - inbound, cross-border related party financing arrangements (PCG 2025/D2)

Draft PCG 2025/D2 sets out the ATO’s proposed compliance approach in relation to the amount of an inbound, cross-border related party financing arrangement.

Interim Decision Impact Statement – Shaw and FCT

The ATO has issued an Interim DIS in response to a case where the ART found that a long-haul truck driver did not need to substantiate his claim for meal expenses.

The Board of Taxation Bulletin May 2025 released

The Acting Chair of the Board of Taxation, Dr Julianne Jaques, has issued the May 2025 edition of the Board’s Bulletin.

Tax Practitioners Board warns of tax advice from “finfluencers”

The TPB has released an article warning taxpayers to be cautious about “finfluencers” offering financial advice, including tax advice, on social media platforms.

Changes to PAYG withholding requirements for external administrators: instrument registered

The instrument modifies the PAYG withholding requirements for external administrators, setting a single rate for specific payments related to certain employee entitlements.



Update to Australia and New Zealand tax treaty

The ATO has updated part of the synthesised text of the Agreement between Australia and New Zealand.

More convictions under Operation Protego: ATO

The ATO has issued a media release in relation to the latest convictions of 3 individuals for committing GST fraud.

Simplified GST accounting - multi-media: draft legislative instrument

The draft instrument applies automatically to multi-media products sold through intermediaries and means that they are treated as suppliers instead of principals for GST.

Tax invoice waiver for Direct Entry Services: draft legislative instrument

The instrument waives the requirement to hold a tax invoice before attributing input tax credits to a tax period under certain circumstances.

ATO to enable agents to access prefill information of compromised taxpayer accounts

The ATO has reviewed its process for restricting agent access to prefill information on compromised taxpayer accounts and is working on a change to enable agents to access prefill information without contacting the ATO to unlock the account.

FBT and LCT thresholds

The FBT car parking threshold will be \$11.03 for the FBT year ending 31 March 2026 (\$10.77 for the year ending 31 March 2025).

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Personal financial advice fees paid from member accounts by super funds (PCG 2025/1)

PCG 2025/1 sets out a simplified account-based method that funds (other than SMSFs) can use to determine the extent to which payments of financial advice fees are deductible.

Anti-money laundering

AUSTRAC are conducting a second round of consultation on the draft anti-money laundering / counter-terrorism funding (AML/CTF) Rules, which commence on 31 March 2026.



SUPERANNUATION

APRA superannuation statistics: March 2025

APRA has released its Quarterly Superannuation Performance publication report for the March 2025 quarter.

ASIC podcast – “Not So Super”

The latest weekly episode in ASIC’s podcast series “Inside ASIC” focuses on recent poor customer experience of super fund members claiming death benefits.

REGULATOR NEWS

ASIC News

Updates from ASIC in the past week including media releases, news, articles and speeches.

APRA news

Updates from APRA in the past week including media releases, news, articles and speeches.

IPA NEWS

Recent IPA Submissions

See [here](#) for the IPA's submission on the *Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) Performance Audit – Australian Securities and Investments Commission’s (ASIC) regulation of registered company auditors*.

TAXATION

Electric vehicle home charging rate

The ATO has issued a [draft update to PCG 2024/2DC](#) (Electric vehicle home charging rate). The draft will update PCG 2024/2 to include a methodology to calculate the cost of electricity when a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) is charged at an employee’s or an individual’s home. At present, the PCG applies only to electric vehicles. Taxpayers may choose to use the methodology outlined on a year-by-year basis.

When finalised, the PCG is proposed to apply for PHEVs:

- for FBT purposes, from 1 April 2024; or
- for income tax purposes (calculating relevant car or motor vehicle expenses), from 1 July 2024.

Comments are due by 30 June 2025.

Transfer pricing - inbound, cross-border related party financing arrangements

The ATO has issued [Draft Practical Compliance Guideline PCG 2025/D2](#), which sets out its proposed compliance approach in relation to the amount of an inbound, cross-border related party financing arrangement.

An entity which, under the new thin capitalisation rules in Div 820 of the ITAA 1997, is a “general class investor” or a “financial entity” that has chosen to apply the “third party debt test” for thin cap purposes and which has inbound, cross-border related party financing arrangements, will need to work out (when applying the transfer pricing rules in Subdiv 815-B) both the amount and rate of their cross-border financing arrangements as if arm’s length conditions operated.

Affected entities can use the draft PCG to:

- assess the transfer pricing risk in relation to the amount of their inbound, cross-border related party financing arrangement using our risk assessment framework;
- understand the compliance approach the ATO is likely to adopt having regard to the circumstances surrounding an entity’s inbound, cross-border related party financing arrangement; and
- mitigate the transfer pricing risk in relation to the amount of the entity’s inbound, cross-border related party financing arrangement.

The draft Guideline also provides an overview of factors to consider when determining the amount of an inbound, related party financing arrangement, as well as types of documentation and evidence that would be useful.

When finalised, the PCG is proposed to apply to income years commencing on or after 1 July 2023 and to existing and newly created financing arrangements.

Comments are due by 30 June 2025.

Interim Decision Impact Statement – Shaw and FCT

The ATO has issued an [interim Decision Impact Statement](#) in response to Shaw and FCT [2025] ARTA 224. In that case, the ART decided that a long-haul truck driver did not need to substantiate his claim for meal expenses, which were calculated by multiplying the number of days he was away from home by the ATO’s maximum reasonable daily allowance (published in TD 2020/5).

The ART concluded that:

- the exception from substantiation under s 900-50 of the ITAA 1997 applied to the taxpayer because he was paid a travel allowance by his employer and his expenditure fell within the reasonable daily amount limits of TD 2020/5; and
- in any event, s 900-200 would have applied to relieve the taxpayer from the obligation to substantiate the meal expenses as he had a reasonable expectation that TD 2020/5 would apply.

The ATO has appealed to the Federal Court against the ART's decision. In the interim DIS, the ATO states that until the appeal process is finalised, it does not intend to revise its current views contained in [TR 2004/6](#), [TR 95/18](#), [TR 97/24](#) and [TD 2020/5](#) dealing with work-related travel expenses and record keeping, including substantiation and the substantiation exception.

Pending the outcome of the appeal process, the ATO is administering the law in accordance with those public rulings.

The Board of Taxation Bulletin May 2025 released

Acting Chair of the Board of Taxation (the "Board"), Dr Julianne Jaques has issued its [May 2025 edition of The Board's Bulletin](#).

The Bulletin highlights the start of the year with the Government's release of the Board's [Review of the Tax Treatment of Digital Assets and Transactions in Australia](#) which is now available on the Board's website.

It brings to attention the resignation of the Board's Chair, Ms Rosheen Garnon who served as a Member of the Board from 1 January 2018 and subsequently as Chair from 26 March 2020.

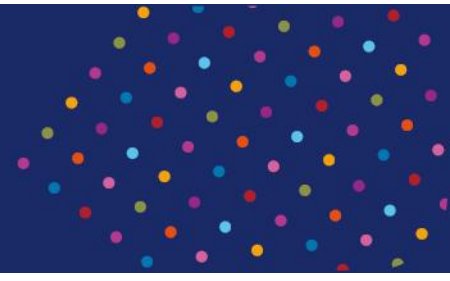
The Bulletin also features the Board's planning of its Stakeholder Events for 2025 bringing up key themes that emerged from stakeholder engagements.

Tax Practitioners Board warns of tax advice from “finfluencers”

The Tax Practitioners Board (TPB) has released an [article](#) warning taxpayers to be cautious of “finfluencers”. These are influencers who offer financial advice, including tax advice, on various social media platforms such as Instagram and TikTok.

“Finfluencers” don't always have the necessary qualifications to give our financial advice and are usually remunerated by companies that want to promote their financial products through the “influencer's” social media platform. Such financial products may not be suitable for everyone and the 'finfluencer' may not fully understand the risks of promoting them.

The article serves as a reminder to the public to only use tax practitioners registered with the TPB (see [TPB Register](#)) for tax advice. It also offers general tips for avoiding the pitfalls of taking in poor financial and tax advice.



Changes to PAYG withholding requirements for external administrators: instrument registered

The ATO has registered the [Taxation Administration \(Withholding Variation for Certain Payments Made by External Administrators and Trustees of Bankrupts' Estates\) Legislative Instrument 2025](#).

The Instrument modifies the PAYG withholding requirements for external administrators and trustees of bankrupt estates. It simplifies the withholding process by setting a single rate of 32% for specific payments related to employee entitlements that accrued before their appointment. These payments include back wages, unused leave, payments in lieu of notice, and genuine redundancy payments. This change aims to reduce the administrative burden on external administrators and trustees by replacing the multiple rates that would otherwise apply.

The Instrument updates and replaces a previous 2015 instrument which would otherwise sunset on 1 October 2025. It has the same effect as the 2015 Instrument, with the exception of the withholding rate, which has been changed reflecting recent changes in income tax rates.

Date of effect: 1 July 2025.

Update to Australia and New Zealand tax treaty

The ATO has [updated](#) part of the synthesised text of the Agreement between Australia and New Zealand. The update includes the correction of an omission error in Article 2 of the Convention between the countries.

More convictions under Operation Protego: ATO

The ATO has issued a [release](#) in relation to the latest convictions of 3 individuals for committing GST fraud. The latest cases were of:

- a woman sentenced to 9 months in jail (released on a recognisance release order and is required to be of good behaviour for 12 months) for claiming GST refunds for a fake beauty and salon services business. The woman shared her myGov log in with 2 friends, who arranged to lodge 6 false BAS's in her name;
- a woman sentenced to 3 months in jail (without a recognisance release order) for participating in GST fraud by registering her ABN for GST and lodging 2 BAS which contained false information; and
- a man sentenced to 2 years and 6 months in jail (to be released on recognisance after serving 6 months imprisonment and is required to be of good behaviour for 3 years and subject to the supervision of a probation officer for 2 years) for lodging 37 BAS for a fake road freight transport business.

The ATO said that while the GST fraud pattern proliferated under Operation Protego has been “contained”, it will continue detecting and disrupting attempted fraud across the tax, superannuation and registry systems.



Simplified GST accounting - multi-media: draft legislative instrument

The ATO has issued the legislative instrument exposure draft entitled [A New Tax System \(Goods and Services Tax\) \(Application of Intermediary Arrangements to the Multi-Media Industry\) Determination 2025](#).

The Instrument specifies that supplies or acquisitions of multi-media products are subject to s 153-50 of the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999 arrangements. This means intermediaries are treated as suppliers or acquirers instead of principals for GST purposes, simplifying accounting processes. The instrument repeals and replaces a previous determination from 2015, maintaining the same substantive effect.

The Instrument applies automatically to multi-media products sold through intermediaries like newsagents and supermarkets unless parties opt out in writing. Multi-media products include magazines, software, recorded music, and electronic games, but exclude lottery tickets, phone cards, and gift cards.

Date of effect: The day following registration on the Federal Register of Legislation.

Comments are due by 25 June 2025.

Tax invoice waiver for Direct Entry Services: draft legislative instrument

The ATO has issued the draft to the legislative instrument, [A New Tax System \(Goods and Services Tax\) \(Waiver of Tax Invoice Requirement - Direct Entry Services\) Determination 2025](#).

The Instrument, made under s 29-10(3) of the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999, waives the requirement for recipients of Direct Entry Services to hold a tax invoice before attributing input tax credits to a tax period, under certain circumstances.

The Instrument defines Direct Entry Services as processing direct credit and debit payments by Australian authorised deposit-taking institutions (ADIs), which are taxable supplies.

The Instrument replaces a previous determination set to sunset in 2025, maintaining the same substantive effect.

Date of effect: The day following registration on the Federal Register of Legislation.

Comments are due by 25 June 2025.

ATO to enable agents to access prefill information of compromised taxpayer accounts

The ATO has reviewed its process for restricting agent access to prefill information on compromised taxpayer accounts and is working on a change to enable agents to access prefill information without contacting the ATO to unlock the account.

This change will enable agents to have the same prefill experience for compromised taxpayers as they do with non-compromised in both Online services for agents and wholesale software environments. Initially agents will be able to access prefill data for financial years 2022–2025.

There has been a steady uptake of taxpayers with [compromised accounts](#) locking in a strong Online Access Strength (OAS) in order to remove additional security measures. If taxpayers do not, or are unable to lock in a strong OAS, the restrictions for accessing non-prefill information for compromised accounts will remain and clients or their agents will need to contact the ATO to request a temporary unlock of the client account.

A reminder that once a taxpayer with a compromised account locks in strong online access strength, these taxpayers no longer have digital access restrictions on their account so wherever possible we encourage taxpayers to lock in a strong online access strength.

The ATO will continue to review the controls on taxpayer accounts where they have been a victim of fraud and make changes to the security protocols as required.

The IPA will be advised when this change has been implemented.

FBT and LCT thresholds

The FBT car parking threshold will be \$11.03 for the FBT year ending 31 March 2026 (\$10.77 for the year ending 31 March 2025).

The luxury car tax (LCT) thresholds for 2025-26 will remain unchanged from 2024-25 — \$91.387 for fuel-efficient vehicles and \$80.567 for other vehicles.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Personal financial advice fees paid from member accounts by super funds (PCG 2025/1)

A recently enacted measure allows superannuation funds to claim a specific deduction (from 1 July 2019) in relation to fees for personal financial advice paid from a member account. A deduction is not available to the extent that an amount is incurred in relation to gaining or producing the fund's exempt or NANE income.

The ATO recognises that apportioning the deduction may be administratively burdensome and costly for larger funds. [Practical Compliance Guideline PCG 2025/1](#) sets out a simplified account-based method that funds (other than SMSFs) can choose to use to determine the extent to which payments of financial advice fees are deductible. Under this method, a financial advice fee paid from, or charged to:

- a member's accumulation phase account is treated as being incurred in relation to gaining or producing the fund's assessable income; and
- a member's retirement phase account is regarded as being incurred in relation to gaining or producing the fund's exempt or NANE income.

PCG 2025/1 also includes the ATO's compliance approach in relation to a fund's PAYG

withholding obligations where personal financial advice fees were paid in pre-2019-20 income years. The ATO says it will not apply compliance resources to specifically identify whether any payments of financial advice fees in those income years should be characterised as superannuation benefits and therefore whether the fund correctly withheld from these payments. This compliance approach covers all superannuation funds, including SMSFs.

PCG 2025/1 was issued in draft form in January this year as PCG 2025/D1. The final version is substantially the same as the draft version.

Anti-money laundering

AUSTRAC are conducting a second round of consultation on the draft anti-money laundering / counter-terrorism funding (AML/CTF) Rules, which commence on 31 March 2026. The AML/CTF requirements are being extended to professional services from 1 July 2026 and will impact many accountants in practice for the first time. More information [here](#).

Submissions are due 27 June 2025. Please provide comments to ipaadvocacy@publicaccountants.org.au by 20 June 2025.

SUPERANNUATION

APRA superannuation statistics: March 2025

The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) has released its [Quarterly Superannuation Performance publication report](#) for the March 2025 quarter.

Key statistics for the superannuation industry as at 31 March 2025

	March 2024 (billion)	March 2025 (billion)	Change
Total superannuation assets	\$3,897.6	\$4,129.0	+5.9%
Total APRA-regulated assets	\$2,692.1	\$2,890.8	+7.4%
Total self-managed super fund assets	\$979.4	\$1,005.5	+2.7%
Exempt public sector superannuation schemes assets	\$169.6	\$173.4	+2.2%
Balance of life office statutory fund assets	\$56.5	\$59.3	+5.0%

Key statistics for entities with more than 6 members for the year to March 2025

	March 2024 (billion)	March 2025 (billion)	Change
Total contributions	\$177.2	\$202.8	+14.4%
Total benefit payments	\$114.3	\$127.5	+11.6%
Net contribution flows*	\$59.1	\$67.0	+13.4%

* Net contribution flows comprise of contributions plus net benefit transfers, less benefit payments.



ASIC podcast – “Not So Super”

ASIC has released the latest weekly episode “Not So Super”, in its podcast series, [Inside ASIC](#), which gives listeners an insight into the workings of ASIC and the people involved. Each episode showcases a different area of ASIC’s work as told by ASIC staff, plus interviews with Commissioners and external guests.

In “Not So super”, Gillian Bradford hosts Pippa Lane, ASIC’s Acting Senior Executive Leader for Superannuation and Life Insurance, and Xavier O’Halloran, the CEO of Super Consumers Australia.

This episode focuses on the recent poor customer service experience of super fund members claiming death benefits, and ASIC’s efforts to ensure trustees uplift this service.

REGULATOR NEWS

ASIC News

ASIC has released the following updates in its Newsroom section:

- [30 May 2025 – MEDIA RELEASE – Full Federal Court finds in favour of ASIC appeal concerning BPS Financial’s use of “authorised representative” exemption](#) – The Full Federal Court has found that BPS Financial Pty Ltd (BPS) could not rely on the “authorised representative” exemption under the Corporations Act when issuing the “Qoin Wallet” (a non-cash payment facility) as it was acting on its own behalf and not as a representative of PNI Financial Services Pty Ltd. Accordingly, the Full Court found that BPS was required to hold an AFS licence. The matter will proceed to a penalty hearing on a date to be set.
- [29 May 2025 – SPEECH – Addressing financial system climate risk: A view from the regulator](#) – ASIC Commissioner Kate O’Rourke presented to the Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA) Conference focusing on what ASIC is doing to support reporting entities to comply with the new mandatory climate-related reporting framework.
- [28 May 2025 – NEWS ITEM – ASIC proposes to remake basic deposit and general insurance product distribution legislative instrument](#) – ASIC has invited feedback on its proposal to remake the *ASIC Corporations (Basic Deposit and General Insurance Product Distribution) Instrument 2015/682* which provides relief from the requirement for an AFS licensee to appoint a distributor of a basic deposit product or general insurance product as its authorised representative. The instrument is scheduled to end on 1 October 2025 and ASIC proposes to remake the instrument for a period of 5 years.
- [28 May 2025 – MEDIA RELEASE – ASIC sues Blockchain Global former director for multiple directors’ duties breaches](#) – ASIC has brought civil penalty proceedings in the Federal Court against Liang Guo, a former director of Blockchain Global Ltd (in liquidation), relating to his involvement in Blockchain Global’s operation of a cryptocurrency exchange platform (ACX Exchange) which collapsed in December 2019. Liquidators estimate that the company owes over \$20m in unsecured creditor claims to former customers of the ACX Exchange. ASIC’s allegations relate to Guo’s dealings with ACX Exchange customer funds, statements about those dealings and

obligations to keep proper books and records. Guo left Australia in September 2024 following the expiry of travel restraint orders and has not yet returned.

- [28 May 2025 – MEDIA RELEASE – ASIC cancels AFS licence of Spectre Financial Group for competency failures](#) – ASIC has cancelled the AFS licence of Spectre Financial Group Australia Pty Ltd (Spectre) which had been suspended since May 2024. Spectre held an AFS licence since 23 October 2018 which authorised it to provide general financial product advice and deal in derivatives and foreign exchange contracts to retail and wholesale clients. Spectre ceased carrying on a financial services business approximately 3 years ago. On 29 May 2024, ASIC suspended Spectre's AFS licence until 29 November 2024 as Spectre had ceased providing financial services. On 25 November 2024 the suspension was extended until 30 May 2025. ASIC cancelled Spectre's licence as it found that Spectre had failed to maintain the organisational competence to provide the financial services covered by its licence. Spectre has a right to apply to the ART for a review of ASIC's decision.
- [28 May 2025 – SPEECH – Trusting trustees with our \\$4 trillion in superannuation](#) – ASIC Commissioner Simone Constant presented to the Consumer Rights Forum in Adelaide reflecting on ASIC's multi-year project to drive a step-change in the way trustees are delivering member services, and focusing on ASIC's review of death benefits claim handling.
- [27 May 2025 – NEWS ITEM – Launch of new podcast series: Inside ASIC](#) – The new series of the ASIC podcast *Inside ASIC* is now live. The podcast gives listeners an insight into the workings of ASIC and the people involved. The podcast is available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts and other podcasting platforms, and episodes are released weekly.

APRA news

APRA has released the following updates in its News and publications section:

- [30 May 2025 – MEDIA RELEASES – APRA releases Monthly Authorised Deposit-taking Institution Statistics for April 2025](#)
- [29 May 2025 – MEDIA RELEASES – APRA releases quarterly insurance statistics for March 2025](#) – APRA has released its suite of quarterly industry aggregate insurance statistical publications for the March 2025 quarter.
- [28 May 2025 – MEDIA RELEASES – APRA releases superannuation statistics for March 2025](#) – APRA has released its Quarterly Superannuation Performance publication report for the March 2025 quarter.