



TAXATION

ATO fraud vulnerabilities — agent feedback requested

Through the Tax Practitioners Stewardship Group, the ATO is seeking to understand the risks that tax agents see in terms of fraud vulnerabilities.

ATO unveils ‘wild’ tax deduction attempts and priorities for 2025

The ATO has revealed that for Tax Time 2025 it will focus on areas where it sees frequent errors, including work-related expenses, working from home deductions and multiple income sources.

Updates to synthesised texts of the MLI and Australia's tax treaties

The ATO has updated and republished a number of the synthesised texts of the MLI and Australia's tax treaties.

***Bendel*: no blanket extension of time to lodge tax returns**

The ATO has released a statement providing insights about the ATO's current position regarding the *Bendel* decision.

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.

TAXATION

ATO fraud vulnerabilities — agent feedback requested

Through the Tax Practitioners Stewardship Group, the ATO is seeking to understand the risks that tax agents see in terms of fraud vulnerabilities. For example:

- Are there changes in the use of Artificial Intelligence that might increase fraud risk?
- Is the likelihood of fraud among agents and their staff impacted by cost-of-living pressures?

- Are agents using new apps that might pose an increased risk?
- Do agents have good controls over data stored in the cloud?

Please provide feedback to ipaadvocacy@publicaccountants.org.au by this Friday 9 May 2025. Specific examples are welcome.

ATO unveils 'wild' tax deduction attempts and priorities for 2025

The ATO has revealed that for Tax Time 2025 it will focus on areas where it sees frequent errors, including work-related expenses, working from home deductions and multiple income sources.

The ATO has also revealed some of the 'wild' work-related expenses people have tried to claim, including an air fryer, a gaming console, swimwear and luxury branded clothing.

[Read more here.](#)

Updates to synthesised texts of the MLI and Australia's tax treaties

The ATO has updated and republished the following series of synthesised texts with an updated presentation of the MLI Article 14(1) box or otherwise updated to ensure consistency of language, style and formatting, or both:

- [Denmark](#)
- [India](#)
- [Indonesia](#)
- [Ireland](#)
- [Korea](#)
- [Netherlands](#)
- [New Zealand](#)
- [Norway](#)
- [Russia](#)
- [Singapore](#)
- [Slovakia](#)
- [South Africa](#)
- [Thailand](#).

Bendel: no blanket extension of time to lodge tax returns

The ATO has released a [statement](#) providing insights about the ATO's current position regarding the *Bendel* decision in the form of a Q&A with Louise Clarke, its Private Wealth Client Experience Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner has stated that the ATO will not grant a blanket extension of time for affected companies to lodge their tax returns

pending the High Court's decision about the ATO's special leave application in *FCT v Bendel* [2025] FCAFC 15, or any subsequent appeal.

REGULATOR NEWS

ASIC News

ASIC has released the following updates in its Newsroom section:

- [1 May 2025 – MEDIA RELEASE – ASIC permanently bans former financial adviser Neville Allan Kendrick](#) – ASIC has permanently banned Neville Kendrick from having any involvement in the financial services industry because he provided financial services when he was not licensed or authorised, made materially misleading statements to induce investors, and acted dishonestly. ASIC also considers he is not a fit and proper person to participate in the industry. The ban took effect from 22 April 2025. Mr Kendrick had not been licensed or authorised since 2022.
- [30 April 2025 – MEDIA RELEASE – ASIC disqualifies NSW hospitality director for maximum 5 years](#) – ASIC has disqualified Mohamed Chabib, of Picnic Point, New South Wales, from managing corporations for a period of 5 years, after his involvement in four failed companies. He had been a director of four failed companies between 2017 and 2025, all of which had operated in the hospitality sector and owed over \$1.13 million to unsecured creditors including the Australian Taxation Office and the Workers Compensation Nominal Insurer. ASIC drew on a liquidator's reports to determine that Mr Chabib had, among other things, allowed companies to trade while insolvent, failed to ensure all companies paid tax debts, and failed to maintain books and records to enable accurate financial statements to be prepared.
- [28 April 2025 – MEDIA RELEASE – ASIC cancels licence of Viridian Equity Group Pty Ltd](#) – ASIC has cancelled the Australian financial services licence of Viridian Equity Group Pty Ltd following a payment of compensation by the Compensation Scheme of Last Resort. On 31 October 2024, AFCA made three determinations against Viridian which it failed to pay. The Compensation Scheme, which has been in operation since April 2024, paid compensation totalling \$450,000 on 11 March 2025. Where AFCA makes a determination against a licence-holder and the CSLR compensates a complainant, ASIC must cancel the licence; it did this on 17 April 2025.

APRA news

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

- [30 April 2025 – MEDIA RELEASES – APRA releases Monthly Authorised Deposit-taking Institution Statistics for March 2025](#)