



DAN'S DEPARTMENT

It has been recognised in the media, and certainly felt by much of us in our personal and business dealings, that some Aussies are doing it tough. Particularly with the much talked about end of the mining boom. Without wanting to make light of the tougher economic times we are now experiencing, I see at least we have the upcoming tax-payer funded telemovie about the life and times of Paul Hogan to look forward to. Silly movies aside, who knows what the New Year will bring in terms of exchange rates, interest rates, economic conditions and tax legislation changes. All we can do is our best with whatever circumstances are thrown our way!

Dan Skinner on behalf of Marg Flowers and Gavin Eddy.

PS: This is our first run at picking the jokes for The Report after Brian's retirement last year. As you will see we hope they improve from here.

REMINDER OF SMALL BUSINESS TAX CUTS

The ATO has reminded taxpayers that, from 1 July 2015, a new two-tier company tax system took effect and applies to all **companies (eg Pty Ltd, but not where the Pty Ltd operates in the role of trustee for a trust)**.

This system sees the whole of a company's taxable income subject to the following rates:

- ◆ 28.5% if the company's aggregated turnover is below a \$2 million threshold (i.e., a small business entity or 'SBE'); or

- ◆ 30% if the company's aggregated turnover is equal to or above a \$2 million threshold.

Importantly, companies don't need to do anything now – if identified as a small business, the new rate will be automatically applied to their PAYG instalment rate or on their next activity statement.

Where your business does not operate as a company (eg **sole-trader, partnership or trust**) a capped 5% tax discount, designed to broadly mirror the small business company tax cut, was also introduced for unincorporated small businesses from the 2016 income year. It will be delivered to individual taxpayers in receipt of small business entity income via the 'small business income tax offset'.

FACEBOOK

A friend is trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles.

Therefore, every day they walk down the street and tell passers-by what they have eaten, how they feel at that moment, what they have done the night before, what they will do later and with whom.

They give them pictures of their family, their dog and of themselves gardening, four-wheel driving, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, having lunch and doing what anybody and everybody does every day.

They also listen to their conversations, give them the "thumbs up" and tell them they like them. And it works just like Facebook! They already have four people following them: two police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

SMALL BUSINESS PROTECTIONS FROM UNFAIR CONTRACT TERMS

There are laws protecting consumers from unfair terms in 'standard form contracts' where the person has little to no opportunity to negotiate with the business concerned.

Businesses use standard form contracts to more efficiently deal with their customers. However, because the business is often in somewhat superior position, there are laws in place to protect consumers from **unfair terms** in a standard form consumer contract.

The Minister for Small Business and Assistant Treasurer has announced that the government will extend consumer unfair contract terms protections to small businesses as well.

"Small businesses have often faced the same vulnerabilities as consumers and under this new change will receive protections when offered 'take it or leave it' contracts," Minister O'Dwyer said.

The changes will cover standard form contracts where at least one of the parties employees less than 20 people, and where the upfront price of the contract does not exceed \$300,000 or \$1 million for contracts longer than 12 months.

The government is providing the ACCC with \$1.4 million to help business transition to these new protections over the next twelve months.

Ref: Assistant Treasurer Media Release, 13 October 2015

JOKES

Q: What do you call a fake noodle?

A: An Impasta

Q: What do you call a girl you who can juggle three middies?

A: Beatrix

Q: :What do you call a girl you who can juggle three middies while playing pool?

A: Beatrix Potter

Q: What do you call a pile off kittens?

A: A Meowtain

Q: Did you hear about the hungry clock?

A: It went back four seconds

Q:What do you call an elephant that doesn't matter?

A: An Irrephant

Q: What is it called when a cat wins a dog show?

A: A CAT-HAS-TROPHY

Q: Did you hear about the fire at the circus?

A: It was in-tents

My mate just started a band called 999 Megabytes....They are yet to get a gig!

ATO REVIEWING TAXABLE PAYMENTS ANNUAL REPORTS

The ATO has advised that it is contacting businesses in the building and construction industry about information provided on their Taxable payments annual report, where the businesses have:

- provided a report with missing or invalid ABNs;
- included amounts paid for GST when the contractor isn't registered for GST;
- not lodged a report; or advised the ATO they are not required to report, when the ATO's records indicate they should.

The ATO will explain what their review has found and suggest ways to make it easier to complete accurate reports in the future, such as using the ABN Lookup tool or ATO app to check a contractor's ABN or if they are registered for GST.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Another year has bitten the dust. Refuelled by our individual preferred combination of relaxation, adventure, and shenanigans we will be back refreshed in the New Year.

As ever that's our goal, so the office will be closed over the Festive Season as follows

From 5.30pm Tuesday 22nd December 2015

To 8.00am Monday 4th January 2016.

We wish you and your loved-ones a happy and joyous Christmas with a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Alicia, Bev, Brian, Christine, Dan, Gavin, Jess, Julie, Karis, Kathryn, Marg, Paul, Pippa, Olive, Sally, and Shirley.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek further advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstance.