

## Office News

Our office hours are from 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday however appointments outside these times may be available if arranged with notice.

- \* **We will be closed from midday Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018**
- \* **Re-open Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019**
- \* **Phone 0419 726 099 during this period for urgent matters.**

*Wishing you all a safe & happy  
Christmas & New Year*

## Christmas Parties & other Entertainment

In business you will, from time to time, provide 'entertainment' to employees &/or clients.

Entertainment can include:

- Christmas parties
- Business lunches with clients
- Golf days
- Farewell & other dinners

Unfortunately, all these have Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT), GST & Income Tax consequences:

Employees & their associates:

- FBT – no FBT if less than \$300/head (incl. Associates)
- GST – no GST claimable
- Income Tax – no deduction

Clients/Customers/Suppliers:

- FBT – no FBT
- GST – no GST claimable
- Income Tax – no deduction

## Single Touch Payroll (STP)

### What is 'Single Touch Payroll'?

Single Touch Payroll is a system where the details of each pay for each employee is lodged with the ATO each payday. This will include superannuation details but will not replace current superannuation reporting.

### When did it commence?

Employers with 20 or more employees as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 were required to start using STP as from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018.

Employers with fewer than 20 employees are required to start using STP from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 although can commence at any time prior to July 2019.

### How do I lodge using STP?

Most software providers now have STP enabled as part of their payroll software. Lodgement is done electronically using your payroll software or through a third party provider.

### What if I don't have a computer or use software?

You will not be forced to purchase payroll software if you don't currently use it. It is proposed different options will be available by July 2019. Your Registered Tax Agent (us) or your bookkeeper (if a Registered BAS Agent) can lodge on your behalf through their respective Portals with the ATO.

### Are there any concessions?

At this point in time there are no concessions however it has been implied that STP can be lodged quarterly *only* if you have 1 to 4 employees & the report is lodged by your Registered Tax or BAS Agent.

### What if I have no internet or it's unreliable?

There will be an exemption to reporting in these circumstances however the full details for applying for such an exemption are not available to date.

### What does it mean for employees?

Once you commence STP you will not be required to issue a PAYG Payment Summary for your employees. The employees will be able to access their Gross Income, Tax Deducted, etc. from their myGov account or

their Registered Tax Agent can download the details from the ATO Portal.

## Employee Super for December Quarter

Superannuation for employees for the quarter to 31<sup>st</sup> December is **due & payable by 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019**.

If you are using the services of a Clearing House you should lodge the contribution return at least 3 days before the due date to ensure all contributions are processed in time.

## ATO Clearance Certificate

Purchaser:

A purchaser of Australian real property (eg: house, unit, farm, vacant land, etc.) must withhold 12.5% of the purchase price where the *market value* of the real property is \$750,000 or more unless the vendor provides a Clearance Certificate issued by the ATO.

Vendor:

A Clearance Certificate is applied for online. Where there are multiple vendors disposing the asset, each vendor should apply for a Clearance Certificate.

The vendor's solicitor or accountant will usually apply for the Certificate however the online application can be completed by the vendor themselves.

**ASK!!!** If you have any questions regarding any article please contact us first!! All articles are general information only. You should seek professional advice to your own situation before acting on this information.