



approach accounting

STANDARD TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT – INDIVIDUAL TAX RETURN

Thank you for your instructions to attend to your taxation requirements.

This document sets out our terms of engagement and the scope of the work to be performed by us within that engagement and supersedes any previous engagement letter provided by us. Please read it carefully and if you have any queries or wish to discuss any aspect, do not hesitate to contact us.

Since 1 March 2010, tax practitioners have been regulated in accordance with the requirements of the *Tax Agent Services Act 2009 (TASA)* and the accompanying regulations. The TASA regime has implications for registered tax agents and also for their clients.

An important feature of TASA is the provision of a “safe harbour” protection from penalties in certain circumstances for taxpayers who engage registered tax agents.

To obtain the benefits of safe harbour protection, the legislation requires the taxpayer to provide the registered tax agent with “all relevant taxation information” to enable accurate statements to be provided to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). This requirement may be important to both parties in identifying and understanding the purpose and scope of the engagement as set out below and may also affect other matters discussed below.

We may have a legal, regulatory or professional obligation to disclose non-compliance with laws or regulations to a regulatory authority if the non-compliance has a material effect on the work that we perform under this engagement.

1. Purpose and scope of engagement

Our engagement is to attend to the following matters:

- *Prepare and lodge annual income tax returns.*

Unless otherwise agreed, we will prepare the above returns and statements on an ongoing basis, in relation to the period following that for which the returns and statements have most recently been finalised, and for each subsequent period.

Each person engages us on the terms set out in this letter and is bound by those terms. Those persons are jointly and severally liable to pay our accounts, regardless of who those accounts are addressed to, and regardless of who received the benefit of the work performed.

Our services will be provided to you on a fee for service basis.

This letter relates only to the abovementioned services and details the basis and terms of this engagement. Unless otherwise agreed, our engagement will be limited to the matters described in this letter. Work that is performed or disbursements that are incurred which are outside the scope of this letter will be the subject of additional charge.



This firm will not be responsible for reviewing or verifying any financial records or statements provided to it either via manual cashbooks or prepared on accounting software such as MYOB or Quickbooks. Correct coding or classification of accounts is outside the scope of this engagement. If assistance is required on how to correctly code, or to review how you currently do so, please discuss this with us. This will entail work which is outside the scope of this engagement and will be charged as additional services.

Also please ensure that you have all source documentation available to allow this firm to analyse the income tax implications of any transaction, if we request to see it. Whilst we will not as a matter of course be looking at these documents, the ATO will expect you (and you are required) to have them available before any claim is made in your income tax return. We may in some circumstances also request to see source documents if a tax issue is particularly contentious.

It is also expected that, in respect of individual income tax returns, each person will have the necessary documents so as to comply with the substantiation provisions of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

We will specifically advise as to the requirements of the substantiation provisions relating to your income tax return and of the necessity to obtain acceptable receipts as specifically required by the legislation. We will not, however, be checking that the requirements of the substantiation provisions have been satisfied.

This specifically means that we will not be reviewing your log book or any calculations or information you provide us, such as a rental property schedule either prepared by you on a spreadsheet or by a property manager. If you require assistance in completing a log book or preparing any calculations, or you would like us to review such work, please discuss this with us. This will entail work which is outside the scope of this letter and will be charged as additional services.

From time to time, this firm prepares templates and schedules to assist with the collation of information to complete income tax returns. These will be provided free of charge.

The fee for this service does not cover any inquiries made to us, or investigations involving us, conducted by the ATO. Substantial penalties apply for an incorrectly prepared income tax return. If you have any queries in respect to this, please contact our office for assistance.

Each client in the Group agrees that we can bank into our trust account tax refund amounts received on behalf of that client and can deduct from those amounts any fees owed to us either by that client or by any other member of the Group.



2. Basis and terms of engagement

Our engagement is to assist with the preparation and lodgment of the taxation returns.

In engaging us to provide taxation services, it is important for you to understand the following:

- You are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the particulars and information provided to us by you.
- Any advice we provide is only an opinion based on our knowledge of your particular circumstances.
- You have obligations under the self-assessment regime to keep full and proper records in order to facilitate the preparation of accurate returns.
- We cannot provide taxation services if we find that information on which those services are to be based contain false or misleading information, or omit material information, and you are not prepared to appropriately amend that information.

Before we lodge any returns on your behalf, we will forward the documents to you for approval. We will endeavour to ensure that the returns are lodged by the due dates and will advise you at the beginning of the financial year when documentation should be provided to us.

If you are late in providing information, we will do our best to meet the time limits, but we will not be responsible for any late lodgment penalties or interest charges you may incur.

The tax returns and any other documents which we are specifically engaged to prepare, together with any original documents given to us by you, shall be your property. Any other documents brought into existence by us, including general working papers, the general ledger and draft documents will remain our property at all times.

If our services are terminated (by either party), each client separately agrees that we shall be entitled to retain all documents owned by that client (including all tax refund cheques of that client which come into our possession) until payment in full of all outstanding fees on any account. Where copies of any documents released to you are required for our records, you will be charged for the cost of photocopying at our normal rates.

The scope of our engagement is the preparation and lodgment of the taxation matters detailed above. Any agreed fee applies only to services and advice provided within the scope of our engagement. This fee includes checking and forwarding original assessments and payment notices that are received from the ATO.

However, any additional services or advice that you request are outside the scope of this letter and are not included in this agreed fee. We will separately advise you of the fee for these services, including any direct out of pocket expenses.

2.1 Fees and charges

Our services will be provided to you on a fee for service basis.

Unless otherwise stated in writing, any estimates which we provide to you of our anticipated fees, disbursements and charges for any work are only indicative of the amounts you can expect to be charged. Estimates are not quotes or caps, and are not binding on us.

Where an estimate is given and the scope of the work changes, or if it becomes apparent that the work involves matters which were not taken into account in the estimate, we will endeavour to advise you and provide an amended estimate as soon as it is practicable to do so.



We may require you to deposit money into our trust account in anticipation of our fees and charges. If you fail to make a required trust deposit, we may suspend work or terminate this engagement. Each client in the Group authorises us to apply trust moneys held on their behalf towards payment of fees and disbursements, and to meet our bill of costs which have been rendered and which have not been paid or disputed within 14 days after issue of the bill of costs.

Each client in the Group is jointly and severally liable to pay our fees in respect of all work performed for all members of the Group. We may require that payment of our fees be guaranteed by one or more persons who are associated with the Group but are not themselves our clients (for example, company directors). If you fail to provide a required guarantee, we may suspend work or terminate this engagement.

If we suspend work or terminate this engagement by reason of your failure to make a trust deposit or provide a guarantee as required, we will not be liable for any loss or damage suffered by any client in the Group as a result of the suspension or termination.

2.2 Confidentiality

We will keep information acquired as a result of this engagement confidential and will not disclose confidential information relating to clients in the Group without permission, unless there is a legal duty to do so. We will also not use any information acquired as a result of this engagement for our own personal advantage or for the advantage of a third party.

We may also need to disclose information relating to one client's affairs to other clients in the Group to assist in performing our work, to persons responsible for the governance of an entity to comply with professional standards, to the relevant parties in order to protect our professional interests in legal proceedings, to a professional or regulatory body in response to an inquiry or investigation, to the relevant parties in order to comply with technical and professional standards (including ethics requirements), or to a professional body of which we are a member, in relation to a quality review program undertaken by that body. Each client in the Group hereby authorises us to do so when we consider it appropriate to further our performance of work for the Group, or when requested by the relevant party.

2.3 Use of “Cloud Computing” (that is not an outsourced service)

From time to time, our firm may utilise “Cloud Computing” in the performance of services under this engagement which is **not** an “outsourced service”.

Each client hereby authorises us to disclose information relating to those clients' affairs to such “Cloud Computing” service providers as we may choose to engage.

2.4 Non-compliance with Laws and Regulations (NOCLAR)

During the performance of our work under this engagement, we may detect conduct or a transaction that is considered to constitute NOCLAR, which has a material effect on any documents or information that might be required to be provided to a regulatory authority (RA), such as the ATO.

If we detect any NOCLAR, we may have a professional requirement to make a disclosure to a RA. We will follow a formal process which will include advising you of our concerns and, if necessary, seeking legal advice. If we do seek legal advice, we reserve the right to ask you to pay or reimburse us for our reasonable costs.

If we are required to make a disclosure to a RA, you agree to forever release us from any claim for costs or losses you incur in responding to or dealing with anything that arises from our disclosure.



2.5 Losses from unauthorised cyber-activity

We will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that any electronic data that contains your private information is securely stored and that any email transmissions are protected and are not able to be intercepted by third parties. However, we cannot be held liable for any loss that you might incur as a consequence of any third party intervention that accesses, procures or copies any data that contains your private information from any medium or device we use to store or transmit such information.

In the event that, despite our firm having taken reasonable precautions to securely store your private information, you suffer any losses arising from unauthorised cyber-activity, you agree to forever release us from any claim for your losses.

2.6 Limitation of liability

Our firm's liability may be limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards legislation and applicable regulations of the Professional Body.