



## Key Outcomes

OFFICIAL External

<b>Title:</b>	PLS working group – key outcomes		
<b>Issue date:</b>	19 April 2021		
<b>Venue:</b>	WEBEX		
<b>Event date:</b>	13 April 2021	<b>Start:</b> 1:00pm	<b>Finish:</b> 2:00pm

<b>Chair:</b>	Danielle Miller	<b>Facilitator:</b>	Danielle Miller
<b>Contact</b>	Julie Huynh	<b>Contact phone:</b>	(02) 88949304

<b>Attendees: names/section</b>	ATO – Danielle Miller, Danny Figueiredo, David Baker, Garry Davies, Anupama Duggirala  Industry – Jack Wee (Catsoft), Misha Ali, Simon Smart (eTax), Lex Edmonds (MicroTax), Sandeep Gopalan (GovReports), Mike Behling, Scott Reid, Michael Tong, Eli Gomez, Christine Savva (MYOB), Kevin Johnson (Reckon), Michael Wright, Saiful Larry, (Sage), Chardutta More (Sparken), Linda Kerhoulas (Thomson Reuters), Danna Zhang, Farah Shaikh (Wolters Kluwer), Andrew Sprankling, Kelvin Newton, Rosemary Missier (Xero).
<b>Apologies: name/section</b>	Mike Denniss, Sha Sha (Class Super), Andrew Noble (Noble Accounting), Nathan Kerr (One-Click), Darin Carter (Sage), Karl Farrand (Taxlab), Shane Paxton, Paul Siriwardana, Krunal Patel, Jing Wu (Thomson Reuters), Dillon Tsotsis, Grant Whytcross, Lisa Kim, Robert Xie (Wolters Kluwer), Anthony Migliardi (Xero)

<b>Next meeting</b>	27 April 2021
---------------------	---------------

## Agenda item: 2 – Action item updates

Updates were provided for outstanding action items. ([see action items](#))

## Agenda item: 3 – Tax time related documentation

Change advice CA2021-002 Tax Integrity – Improving the taxation of Testamentary Trusts has been updated. The special disability code has now been removed.

The following draft tax times are available on the [Software Developers Website](#) and in the [collaboration hub](#):

- NAT 1371 Individual tax return
- NAT 2787 Family trust election revocation or variation
- NAT 2788 interposed entity election or revocation
- NAT 73345 International dealings schedule

DPO to advise if an updated change advice CA2021-005 Media Reforms Package can be published.

## Agenda item: 4 – Updates to the ELStagformat service

Danny Figueiredo presented proposed updates to the ELStagformat service required as a result of migration to another data centre.

**Impact summary** – what's going to be different with the ELS Prior Year Service

	<b>Impact to Digital Service Providers</b>	<b>Impact to Tax Agents</b>
<b>Volumes (2019-2020)</b>	~11 Digital Service Providers	~15,781 Tax Agents
<b>ELS registration</b>	No impact.	Tax Agents no longer contact the ATO to register for an ELS Approval.
<b>Update ELS registration category</b>	No impact.	Tax Agents no longer contact the ATO to update their ELS registration category.
<b>Technical acknowledgement</b>	No impact – the service will provide a EBMS3 technical acknowledgement.	No impact to Tax Agents.
<b>ELS Validation report</b>	Validation report will no longer be available for ELS forms. No ELSTAG response payload or a standard	Tax Agents will NOT receive an ELS validation report. The ATO will follow up and contact tax agents to resolve any errors out of channel.

	response that will contain only confirmation of delivery.	Agents can verify in OSFA or other services lodgment status.
<b>Form progress requests</b>	No impact.	Forms will be viewable in Online Services for Agents

Two potential options were presented to the group:

**Option 1 - Create a new service version of ELSTAG**

- The new service interaction will be Fire and Forget. Option for a request reply service
  - the reply would be a standard file indication receipt, NOT an ELS validation report.
- Polling as per normal non-interactive service.
- Normal new service process –EVTE testing and whitelisting.
- On a specified date old version of ELSTAG would be removed (de-whitelisted).
- Allows transition to a new version while the old version is still available

**Option 2 - Change the existing ELSTAG service on an agreed date**

- On a specified date the ELS Validation report will not longer be returned. This would be a hard cutover to new behaviour on a particular date for all submissions after that date.
- The response payload would be a standard file indication receipt, NOT an ELS validation report. No ELS validation response available
- Current ELSTAG service in EVTE would be updated
  - No requirement to recertify

It is expected that the changes may occur at the end of the calendar year.

DSPs are encouraged to provide **feedback** for the preferred option by raising a ticket in [Online Services for DSPs](#).

**Agenda item: 5 – Delivery update**

Garry Davies confirmed that the previously announced changes to the SMSF membership from 4 to 6 will be rolled back in SBR due to feedback from DSPs. This is expected to part of the April EVTE this weekend.

The DPO will investigate updates to the payevnt services on 31/03/2021 without documentation which has resulted to testing impacts.

Update: The changes to the validation rules for payroll event [2018](#) and [2020](#) services in EVTE was originally notified to DSPs via the DSP newsletter on 17/03/2021. This change was scheduled and completed on 31/03/2021 to EVTE, however it was identified that the artefacts publication package (SBR specification and Conformance tests) were not published due to artefacts errors identified just prior to publishing. This has caused a discrepancy between the EVTE environment and documentation/specifications used by the DSPs causing some test case failures.

DPO has received information from the technical and platforms teams that the publication for these artefacts will be completed on 23/04/2021.

Note: There has been no impact to PRODUCTION and this change is only scheduled to be implemented as part of June production release.

### **Agenda item: 6 – Platform update**

Platforms have been stable and working as expected with no issues to report.

SBR1 and SBR2 environments were unexpectedly brought down on 9 April instead of 10 April due to internal changes with the Secure Internet Gateway deployment.

There has been a strong focus on reducing high impact incidents through proactive monitoring and preventative maintenance tasks - which have resulted in increased system availability and a significant decrease of unplanned outages. All of our platforms (SBR1, SBR2 and BDE) maintained 100% availability (relating to unplanned outages) for 6 consecutive – a great achievement.

The ATO understands that planned outages often cause inconvenience to all DSPs. The teams have been continuously working to identify and explore options to minimise regular downtime wherever possible.

Various measures have been implemented in production to increase stability and performance - which has enabled us to implement a few improvements.

An outage window of 15 hours is required for frequent OS patching to ensure production environments are up to date and healthy.

A proof of concept is currently in process to allow for patching without causing an outage. This process was implemented in the production environment during the weekend for the first time, increasing the PROD2 uptime by an additional 15+ hours, which would previously have been a full outage.

### **Agenda item: 7 – Agent online environment update**

David Baker reported that Access Manager has moved to a cloud platform, which has caused some issues with agents being unable to log in.

If there are any issues with agent logins please email David or raise a ticket in Online Services for DSPs.

On demand reports (ASLRPT) changes have been considered as a high priority. There is no current timeframe for its implementation however it may be in 21Q1 (December).

### **Agenda item: 8 – DSP Feedback/issues**

Due to the number of major changes and tight delivery timeframes, the DPO will create a Frequently Asked Questions document in the Knowledge Base to address common issues relating to Tax Time 2021 covering all services.