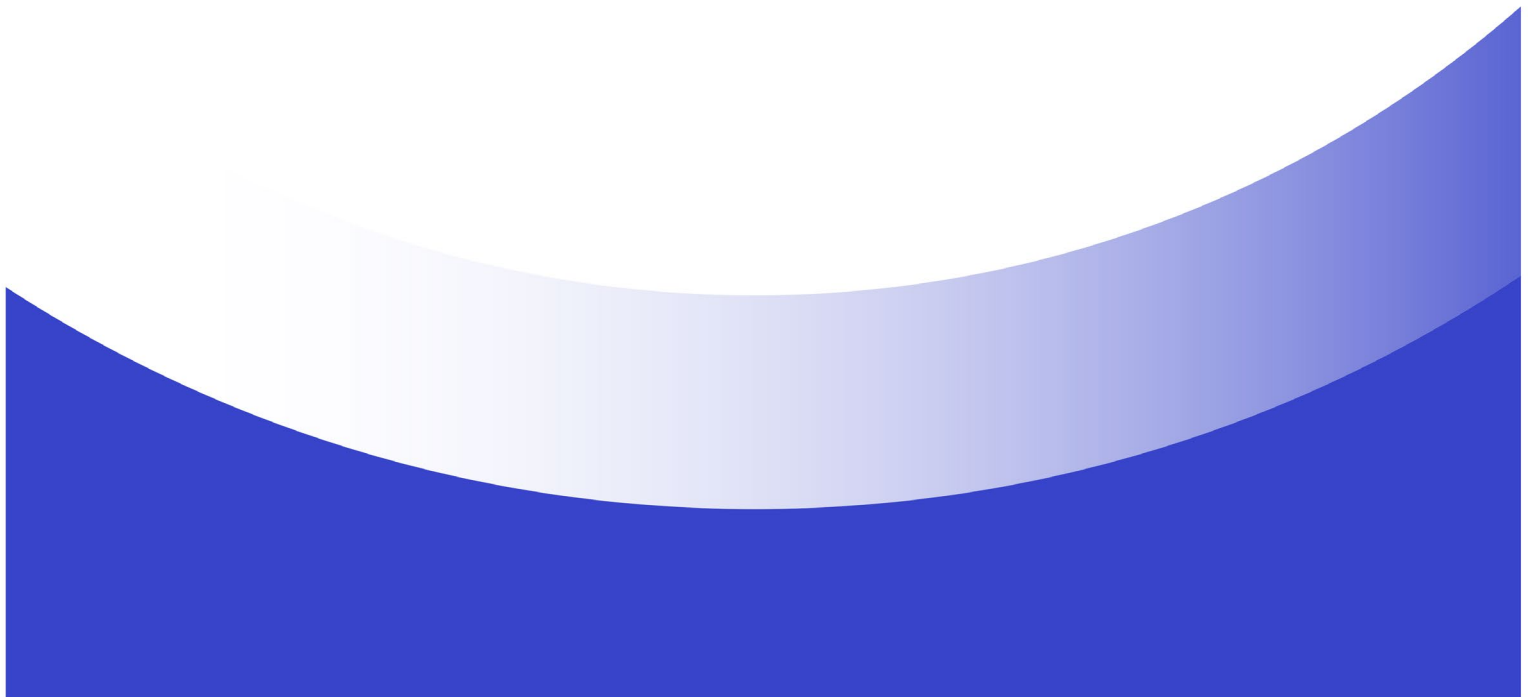




Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office

Digital Service Provider Architecture Reference Group (DARG) Charter 2024



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters, and community. We pay our respects to them, their cultures, and Elders past and present.

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Context

For the purposes of this document, the term 'industry' refers to organisations that develop and deliver tax and super related digital services to the community, including software developers, gateway providers, third-party providers, clearing houses, and system implementers.

Purpose

Role

Stakeholder Relationship Group

The Digital Service Provider Architecture Reference Group (DARG) is a Stakeholder Relationship Group operated by the ATO. It aims to develop and maintain ongoing relationships with business, industry representatives and key intermediaries and use their specialist knowledge and experience to help build a clearer and mutual understanding of the tax, superannuation, and registry systems.

This charter has been established for the DARG and is underpinned by the [ATO Consultation framework](#).

The group reports outcomes and organisational details to ATO Consultation.

Scope

The group will:

- provide an industry perspective to help shape and influence the decisions that impact the delivery of wholesale services on ATO's data exchange platforms:
 - Bulk Data Exchange (BDE) – bulk lodgement capability
 - Standard Business Reporting (SBR) – digital reporting channel
 - Digital Services Gateway (DSG) – API gateway
- offer an industry viewpoint to guide and inform the management of ATO's data exchange platforms
- organise forums for consultation on technical and architectural design and security and risk impacts under the Early Engagement Model
- explore the impacts of new and emerging business models and whole of government initiatives
- identify opportunities to help shape the future of technical tax, super, and registry solutions in the digital eco-system.

Roles and responsibilities

The **Chair** will ensure the group operates efficiently and effectively to achieve its desired purpose.

The Chair should ensure:

- they provide an opportunity for members to declare any conflicts of interest, and these are considered with the appropriate course of action determined and noted in key messages
- they are informed about matters that may arise during group discussions
- they define and approve the direction of the forward agenda
- they direct the deliberations of the group by framing the issues, setting the tone for discussion and actively engaging members
- the group builds a culture of respect where different views can be openly expressed:
 - members views are heard while balancing staying on time and on track
 - members are encouraged to present their position on the subject matter, identify issues and any other relevant concerns
 - members hear and understand the experience of other members
- members have an opportunity to declare any conflicts of interest, conflicts of interest are considered to determine the appropriate course of action, and details are noted in key messages
- members engage in good faith and respect the expertise and contributions of others
- members abide by the [ATO Consultation Framework](#)

Members are expected to:

- represent and act in the best interests of the digital service industry in relation to tax, superannuation, and registry systems, as well as the broader finance-based and whole-of-government applications
- actively contribute to the meeting discussion
- engage in good faith and respect the expertise and contributions of others
- have subject matter knowledge, skills and experience related to the purpose and scope of the group
- commit to attend meetings, with the expectation of nominated proxies attending in their absence
- disclose any matters that could be perceived to be, or are, conflicts of interest and take appropriate action to manage/mitigate those conflicts
- maintain confidentiality of information provided
- meet their legislative requirements regarding their personal tax obligations
- advocate for their represented organisation's adherence and compliance to [the Operational Security Framework \(OSF\)](#) where applicable.

Current members are listed on [Software Developers](#) website.

The **secretariat** will support the Chair by managing administration matters relating to the group, including:

- arranging meetings and distributing agendas
- taking and circulating key messages
- identifying and recording action items noting who is accountable and the timeframes
- managing the forward work program.

Membership

Membership of the group must be refreshed at regular intervals, and no longer than every 2 years from the establishment date. Membership is filled by Expression of Interest and members may reapply for selection in subsequent years.

The Chair will select members based on their expertise and experience to actively contribute to the purpose of the group. Members may include a range of entities that are part of the software supply chain and/or support the wholesale environment.

To fill any industry or technology representation gaps, the Chair has the discretion to invite additional members to participate. This ensures a comprehensive and diverse representation within the group.

Meeting requirements

The DARG operates in an environment of transparency where information should standardly be considered public.

Members are not authorised to disclose confidential information without the prior written approval of the chair. This includes making public statements or announcements on information discussed or provided at a DARG meeting which:

- is declared confidential or
- the member ought to reasonably know is confidential.

Meetings will be scheduled as required with a minimum of 3 meetings per year.

Ad hoc out-of-session meetings will be held where required.

Key meeting papers will be distributed at least 5 business days before a meeting.

Final key messages will be distributed to members within 6 weeks of a meeting.

Final key messages will be published on the [Software Developers](#) website.