



# Technical Working Group (TWG) Outcomes

v1.00

**UNCLASSIFIED** External  
File ref: TWG20171012

<b>Title</b>	Digital Service Providers' Technical Working Group (DSP TWG) #56		
<b>Issue date</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2017		
<b>Venue</b>	<a href="https://ato.webex.com">https://ato.webex.com</a> and dial-in 1800 888 453		
<b>Event date</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	<b>Start</b> 16:00 AEDT	<b>Finish</b> 17:00
<b>Documentation</b>	<a href="https://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/SwDTWG20171012">https://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/SwDTWG20171012</a>		
<b>Chair</b>	Michael Connolly	<b>Secretariat</b>	Gary Anderson

**Attendees** 4 x Unidentified dial-in callers and also

**Digital Service Providers (DSPs)** as identified on Webex.

Bernadette Barril(**Abbvie**); Graham Coutts(**ADP**); Sharon Towes(**Affinity Team**);  
Dane Wilson, Joel Castner, Kevin McKeever(**Aurion**); Jack Wee(**Catsoft**);  
Brett Reed (**e-Payday**); Amit Jain, Josef Bobinac (**Fasttrack**);  
Daniel Jach(**Frontier Software**); Sandeep Gopalan(**GovReports**);  
Guy Degoumois(**Intelitec Pacific/Inerva**); Michael McNeill(**ITP**);  
Manas Sadar(**MessageXchange**);  
Andrew D. Smith, Andrew E. Smith, Mike Behling(**MYOB**);  
Ajay Pradeep, Arun George, Joy Hooper, Shankar Narayanan(**Oracle**);  
David Field(**Ozedi**); Deanne Windsor(**Pendragon**); Kevin Johnson(**Reckon**);  
Art Czernecki(**Sage Micropay**); Alistair Gibson(**SuperChoice**);  
Andrew Hilton(**Thomson Reuters**)

**ATO:**

Anne Soe; Desmond Parker; Gary Anderson; Gerardine Burke; Graham Dawson;  
Joe Maxymenko; ;Kim McConaghy; Lachlan McKenzie; Martin Kenseley; Martin Mane;  
Michael Connolly; Michael Serena; Mick Ferris; Nicola Sellick; Scott Rumford

**Apologies** **Digital Service Providers (DSPs):**

Martin Viles (**e-Payday**); Dee-May Ong, Tanya Ross Jones (**Ernst & Young**);  
Nicolas Perrott (**Riscos Consulting**); Andrew Mitchell (**MessageXchange**);  
Sharon Rockman (**Ascender**); Matthew Addison (**ICB**); Andrew Morris (**Qvalent**);  
Janice Aldinger (**Sage Micropay**); Daniel Wong, Martin Etherington (**XERO**)

**ATO staff:**

Deborah Smith; Ian Scensor; John Shepherd; Kylie Johnston; Terry Seiver; Vitaly Sidorenko;  
Sharna Maltman; Timothy Haan

### Key Outcomes from this meeting:

- Conformance Assurance: A technical Focus Group would be established to recommend requirements for Conformance Assurance improvements
- Quality Assurance Focus Groups would be conducted within each projects' technical committee (e.g. PLS Transition Round Table; STP Technical Focus Group)
- PLS: AUTH error messages changes is progressing in the right direction

### Actions from this meeting:

**ACTION** (A0090): ATO (David Van Dijk and Gary Anderson) to form a focus group on Conformance Assurance.

[Postscript: Closed 30/10/2017 with formation of group]

## 1. Welcome

Michael Connolly acknowledged the traditional owners of the land and thanked Digital Service Providers for their time and participation in collaborating with the ATO.

## 2. Previous outcomes and actions

Gary Anderson led an update and discussion on outcomes and from the TWG 14 Sept 2017 and action items progress

It was noted that:

- A0064 – CLOSED - ATO provided release notes to software developers but DSPs noted the ATO did not complete this action by communicating to tax agents. DSPs agreed to close this action despite it not being completed
- A0074 – CLOSED - Software developers noted that there have been successful transactions.
- A0083 – CLOSED - Covered in Agenda item 5 in this meeting. Closed with technical Focus Groups to be formed within the projects' Technical Committees (e.g. the PLS Transition Round Table, STP technical Focus Group, etc)
- A0084 – CLOSED - Passed to the STP micro group to resolve.

### 3. Implementation / Schedule

Reference: [http://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/eCommerce\\_Schedules\\_and\\_Scope](http://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/eCommerce_Schedules_and_Scope)

Mick Ferris led an update and discussion on the eCommerce schedules for deployment noting that:

- [Updates were being provided](#) during the next week at [Payroll Workshops](#).
- A new schedule would be published on the [schedule page](#) (link above)
- ATO is looking at opportunities and feasibility of bringing some of the March 2018 dates forward.
- Super Reform is trying to schedule MAS for EVTE. Potentially may come into the Nov/Dec 2017 period.

### UPDATES ON CROSS-PROJECT MATTERS

#### 4. Conformance Assurance

Nicola Sellick led an update and discussion on enhancing the conformance assurance noting that:

- Testing and conformance assurance has been matter for discussion in many DSP forums.
- During 2017, concerns were raised by the Single Touch Payroll (STP) Advisory Group.
- A “[STP Draft Assurance Framework Proposal \(PDF\)](#)” was developed by ATO and endorsed at the STP Design Working Group on 22/9/2017.
- The STP technical focus group referred the concerns to the TWG to address as the matters are of broader concern. A core group of ATO staff have been examining ATO capabilities both current and potential.
- A paper was presented to the [ATO-SwD Strategic Working Group 12 Oct](#) as: [Agenda item 6: Testing and assurance submission ATO service offerings for testing \(PDF\)](#)
- The intent is to form a Focus Group from this TWG to progress

The following Digital Service Providers expressed a desire to be in the group:

Andrew Smith, Deanne Windsor, Kevin Johnson, Mike Behling.

Michael Wright was nominated in absentia

**ACTION:** ATO (David Van Dijk and Gary Anderson) to form a focus group on Conformance Assurance.

Postscript: Following an Expression of Interest process, members of this group were formed during the week of 23-31 Oct 2017 and have met on 31 Oct, 03 Nov.

## 5. Quality Assurance

[Reference: TWG Action Item 83: “TWG to commission a technical focus group to identify the scope and standards needed for ATO Quality Assurance on technical specifications. Also refer to TWG Issue Register SWDI54 ]

Mick Ferris led an update and discussion noting that:

- There is ATO executive commitment to address this
- The technical focus groups will be formed to address the issues within the project “technical committees”: e.g.
  - PLS Transition Round Table,
  - STP implementation Technical Focus Group.
- Mick Ferris and Anne Soe are currently identifying issues and defects for PLS.

Digital Service Providers expressed views that:

- If specifications do not match the code, then the likely result is that submissions will be via paper.

## 6. Operational Framework

Reference: [https://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/operational\\_framework](https://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/operational_framework)

Martin Mane led an update and discussion on the Operational Framework noting that:

- A paper was presented to the ABSIA forum and the [ATO-SwD Strategic Working Group 12 Oct](#) as: [Agenda item 5: Operational Framework \(PDF\)](#)
- For the issue of Certification and Assessment, there is no final position yet, but it is focusing on assigning risk ratings for each service. It will not necessarily mean that a high risk would require an IRAP or an ISO assessment.
- Focus Groups were continuing and DSPs should keep aware via the [news services](#), the [Operational Framework landing page](#), their [account managers](#), or emailing the [Digital Partnership Office \(DPO\)](#)

Digital Service Providers expressed views that:

- For Certification, the industry may also be able to suggest alternatives to IRAP or ISO such as SOC2 or ASVS-Level 3?

DSPS were welcome to suggest either directly or via industry representatives on the [Certification and Assessment Focus Group](#)

## UPDATES FROM TECHNICAL COMMITTEES OF INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

### 7. Single Touch Payroll (STP)

meets monthly as “STP technical focus group”

Reference: <https://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/SwD-TWG>

and <http://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/STP>

Michael Connolly led an update noting that the current items being addressed are:

- Provision of a Roadmap for giving DSPs visibility of future change
- Clarifying performance expectations for STP PayEvent transmissions in regard to file size, errors, and polling
- Services for Employee Commencement

The next meeting of the [STP Technical Focus Group is 26<sup>th</sup> October](#) 2017

### 8. Practitioner Lodgement Services (PLS)

meets fortnightly as “PLS Transition Round Table”

Reference: <https://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/PLSWG>

Martin Mane led an update and discussion noting that:

- A document, “[Proposed AUTH error message changes TWG.PDF](#)”, had been developed by a micro group from the PLS technical committee (the PLS Transition Round Table) and made available 10 Oct at [this TWG meeting's page](#)
- Feedback from DSPs in the TWG was requested at this meeting and noted below
- DSPs were asked to send further feedback via email to [swdTWG@ato.gov.au](mailto:swdTWG@ato.gov.au)

Digital Service Providers expressed views that:

- This is a welcome start but needs more.
- The second scenario notes in error that: “A tax practitioner transmits a client that has not been added to their RAN, has been taken by another Agent, *or there is an issue with the client data in ICP*”

It was noted that “issues with client data in ICP” normally trigger a different message

## 9. Superstream

meets monthly as “SuperStream Technical Committee” (SSTC)

Ref: <https://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/SSTC>

Graham Dawson led an update and discussion noting that:

Current focus is on

- Upgrades of rollovers from v1 to v2, especially in specifying more detail on the migration and cut-off from one version to the other.
- Supporting the migration of small business clearing house into the ATO

Latest SSTC discussions are around:

- DATES validation: What are reasonable values? (e.g. end date not before start date; how far ahead for future dates, etc)
- MESSAGE FAILURES: creating a guidance paper on what to do if a message fails? E.g. time-out period, can it be resent, etc
- ROLLOVERS: implementation

Meetings of the SSTC are advertised on the Digital Partnership Office's [Upcoming Engagements Page](#)

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### 10. Other business without notice

None

## Close

- Next TWG meetings
  - Webex® - [9<sup>th</sup> November 2017](#) Special time of 3pm(AEDT)
  - Webex® - [14<sup>th</sup> December 2017](#) Normal time of 2pm(AEDT)

For complete forward schedule see the [ATO-DSP-TWG web-page](#)

### Notes:

- **Publications:** TWG meeting documents are available at: <http://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/eCommerce-SWD-TWG>
- **Invitations:** ATO publicises the TWG meetings to subscribers of [SIPO news services](#) but does not send out calendar invites for the TWG's to DSPs unless requested. To request addition to meetings via Outlook® invitation please email the [SwD TWG](#)
- **Schedule:** Please consult the [Software developers homepage](#) for TWG dates and supporting documentation.
- When contacting the [SwD TWG](#) by email, please cc to [SIPO](#)

