Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office

Meeting Outcomes v1.00

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Title:	**Single Touch Payroll (STP) Technical Committee Focus Group TFND data 2019 KICK-OFF MEETING - Outcomes**
Issue date:	19th December, 2018
Venue:	https://ato.webex.com/
Event date:	**18th December 2018** Start: 16:00 (AEDT) Finish: 17:00
Facilitator:	Michael Connolly Secretariat: Gary Anderson
Publications	https://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/STPTCFG-TFNDEC_data_2019

Participants	This was a closed meeting restricted to members of the STPTC Focus Group

Digital Service Provider (DSP) members

DSP Name (& company)		Representing software segment
Doreen Bhamji (Datacom)	SYD	Payroll; NZ DSPs;
Graham Coutts (ADP)	MEL	Payroll; and Payroll bureaus
Martin Etherington (Xero)	CBR	Payroll; cloud s/w

ATO members

Desmond Parker	CBR	SMB - Single Touch Payroll
Gary Anderson	SYD	EST - Digital Wholesale Services (DWS)
Gerardine Burke	BNE	EST - Digital Wholesale Services (DWS)
Kylie Johnston	SYD	EST - Digital Partnership Office, (DPO)
Martin Kenseley	CBR	EST - Digital Wholesale Services (DWS)
Michael Connolly	BNE	EST – Application Architecture and Design (AAD)
Michael Ferris	CBR	EST - Digital Wholesale Services (DWS)
Rodney Sheils	MEL	SMB – Field Client Engagement Group - PAYG

Apologies	**ATO:** Kym Myall; Cameron Everitt; Ian Colhoun; Michael Corrigan. Nicola Sellick **DSP:** Deanne Windsor, Brett Reed

__The ATO appreciates__ the expertise and generosity of time of Digital Service Providers in partnering with us in the development of digital solutions for Tax and Superannuation systems

OUTCOMES:

Participants clarified goals, expectations, and next steps.

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1. Understand the background to the issue and the desires of DSPs and of ATO.

Participants discussed and had consensus on the background, that:

"This focus group was called by the Single Touch Payroll Technical Committee (STPTC) in the meeting of 5 December 2018 in response to digital service providers (DSPs) concerns[1] that the data structures differed between the tax file number declaration (TFND), the TFND part of Payroll Event (PAYEVNT), the online tax file number declaration screen, the Bulk Data Exchange (BDE) and the paper form.

> Note [1] A document TFNDEC_vs_PAYEVNT_comparisons(XLS), had been tabled at the STPTC meeting 21 Nov 2018.

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2. Establish agreed understanding of the expectations and goals of the group.

Participants agreed that:

The GOALS are:

1. <u>Immediate goal:</u> To identify irritants that can be addressed immediately for the data elements of the TFND and/or PAYEVNT web services

2. <u>Extended goal:</u> To document a recommendation to the STPTC on:

   o confirming the future need for a separate TFND rather than incorporating within PAYEVNT
   o the potential (of ATO and the software industry) to align the data collected in the TFNDEC form with the TFND and PAYEVNT services
   o impacts, risks, benefits of implementing changes and of not implementing changes

The EXPECTATION is that outcomes of the group's activities will be a collective and representative recommendation to ATO's architectural program of work, and will not imply commitment by ATO to implement changes.
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3. Understand what is in scope or out of scope

Participants identified
out-of-scope as
- Systemic causes of differences (i.e. focused on tactical fix)
- data structure mis-alignment of other services

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4. Identify if there are other key people that may be needed

Participants identified the need for

ATO to invite DSPs from other software market sectors like (Tax Practitioner; HR)

All participants were urged to inform Michael Connolly or Gary Anderson, if they subsequently thought of anyone else.

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5. TIME-FRAME

For goal 1 : the short term irritants: ATO noted that there may be a window of opportunity to influence TFNDEC ver 5 due July 2019 with short term changes.

The window to include changes ends mid to late January 2019, but this group will next meet on 16 January 2019

For goal 2: The longer view of alignment: The group expressed interest in meeting for a half day instead of only 90 minutes on 16th January 2019(by telepresence or face-to-face if possible)

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6. NEXT STEPS

a) ATO to develop appriate agenda and confirm logistics for possible half day workshop on 16th to include the long-term goals

POST-SCRIPT: The 90 minute webex meeting was extended to a half day by telepresence on 19th December, 2019

b) Participants noted that the following information would be useful for a workshop on the long term goals.

The focus group will need to understand:

- ATO plans for deprecation of versions of TFND services (ATO)
- Confirmation of continuation of TFND services separately to PAYEVNT (ATO)
- Stats on usage of TFND (ATO)
- ATO plans for paper forms version of TFNDEC (ATO)
- External impacts on the sw industry and users (DSPs)

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