Key Outcomes

Title:	DARG forces group – Early access to development artefacts
Issue date:	4 July 2019
Venue:	Webex

Event date:	28 June 2019	**Start:** 1:00pm		**Finish:** 2:00pm	

Chair:	Paul Dwyer	**Facilitator:**	Sonia Lark
Contact	Sonia Lark	**Contact phone:**	02 4725 7460

Attendees: names/section	ATO - Paul Dwyer, Michael Ferris, Christie Villamora, Carl Bennett, Kylie Johnston, Sonia Lark, Julie Sen Industry - Koustubh Bandyopadhyay (CBA), Darin Carter (Sage), Karl Farrand (TaxLab), David Kyle (TaxLab), Kevin Johnson (Reckon), Andrew E. Smith (MYOB)
Apologies: name/section	ATO - Anupama Duggirala, Sangitha Sivayogaraj, David Baker Industry - Rohan Walder (Xero), David Field (Ozedi)

Next meeting	12 July 2019

Open Discussion

Paul Dwyer opened the meeting to recap and provide context from the previous DARG meeting. This meeting will begin early conversations to explore the possibility of DSPs gaining early access to development artefacts, receive input from Industry and work direction.

Sonia Lark opened the discussions centred on the following themes:

Draft development documentation

DSPs are aware of the risks that come with utilising draft documentation, and will use these details to determine the magnitude of change, resources required for

implementation and priority. DSPs are seeking the clarity of changes much earlier in order to make informed decisions about its development.

The group identified that PLS documentation could be a priority to improve. The level of documentation quality and release times between older, paper-based PLS services differs from newer services such as STP and Super.

Timelines for changes and new work

Legislative changes do not cause as many issues as agency driven changes (such as administrative changes) which requires external work to align with the agency's desired state. These seemingly small changes could heavily impact the DSPs' end users as entire workflows could be changed.

DSPs need to allow for time to educate their end users and provide the necessary support and best client experience.

Little information is available for DSPs to deliver the changes until the agency is sure of the requirements and delivery drop dates. The time to implement and deliver these changes could be short.

Superannuation changes are not driven by Tax Time legislation, quarterly engagements usually allows for a longer lead time for DSPs to deliver the changes to end users.

Improvements and suggestions

The group encouraged the following suggestions for future development documentation:
- Better document control
- Move the static information in the BIGs to a separate document which only requires infrequent updates
- Capture "risky" changes in the documentation early. DSPs can then identify how much work and resources will need to be invested into a change
- Create a dedicated space or website to house major requirements for anyone to check such as Github
- Increase visibility and clearer timeframes for DSPs and the ATO
- Allow DSPs to be involved in feedback loop much earlier on in the development phase

The ATO will discuss the next steps which will include:
- Which documents could be used as part of early DSP feedback
- Where the documents can be stored

The proposal will be presented to the focus group during the next meeting.