



Key messages

UNCLASSIFIED External

Title:	COVID-19 DSP focus group		
Issue date:	14 April 2020		
Venue:	Webex		
Event date:	9 April 2020	Start: 3:00pm	Finish: 3:30pm
Chair:	Martin Mane	Facilitator:	Martin Mane
Contact	Sonia Lark	Contact phone:	02 47257460

Attendees: names/section	<p>ATO: Martin Mane – AC, Digital Partnership Office & e-invoicing Andrew Watson – AC, Small Business Experience Felix Manero, Director, Individuals & Intermediaries, Engagement and Support Shane Moore – Director, Superannuation & Employer Obligations, Technical Standards & Services Sonia Lark - Digital Partnership Office Kerry O’Loughlin – AC, Individuals & Intermediaries</p> <p>Industry: Chris Howard – ABSIA Mike Behling - MYOB Helena Bone - MessageXchange Max Ciereszko - FastTrack Tim Covark – Cashflow Manager Chris Denney - SuperChoice Mike Denniss – Class Limited Grant Doherty - Qvalent Simeon Duncan - Intuit Simon Foster - Storecove Ian Gibson - ABSIA Kevin Johnson - Reckon Matthew Prouse - Xero Michael Roberts - TaxLab Michael Wright – Sage</p>
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Apologies: name/section	Sally Bektas – AC, marketing & Communications Larissa Evans – AC, Fund Services & Engagement Trent Jakubowski – AC, Individuals & Intermediaries, Engagement and Support Kylie Johnston – Director, Digital Partnership Office Michael Karavas – Director, Single Touch Payroll Jason Lucchese – AC, Single Touch Payroll
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Next meeting	16 April 2020
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Agenda item: 1 – Welcome and overview

Martin Mane welcomed the group and advised that due to the current environment, several of the presenters on the agenda would not be available for the meeting.

The ATO is working to publish regular updates on ato.gov.au, including question and answer documents.

The JobKeeper legislation received royal assent earlier today (09/04) and an invitation will issue shortly to go through the administrative changes and to cover eligibility criteria.

There will be three different mechanisms for employers to notify the ATO of eligible employees:

- online
- through STP reporting and
- via BDE - CSV files will be published next week.

Currently over 800K businesses had expressed interest in JobKeeper, however not all will be found eligible.

The JobKeeper enrolment process will be able to be completed via:

- Online services for individual
- Business portal, or
- Online Services for Agents

Declarations need to be completed at the end of each month including:

- Employees that were eligible
- Notification of turnover for the previous month and expected turnover for the next month

The question was raised around employers that don't lodge STP monthly - should they be advised to lodge more frequently. Martin took the question on notice.

Agenda item: 2 – Super Industry update

Shane Moore provided an update on the measures for the Superannuation industry. He advised that work around the Early Release measures are on track. Guidance and process information is now available.

Agenda item: 4 – Small business community update

Andrew Watson advised that information on the JobKeeper and FAQs will be available on ato.gov.au shortly.

Agenda item: 6 – ABSIA update

It was identified that businesses currently reporting on a quarterly basis may have issues with generating monthly cash flow reports.

Agenda item: 7 – Open floor to identify and respond to emerging issues

Concerns were raised over performance capacity of the ATO systems with the strain of additional users logging into ATO services in the first week of July. Martin advised that concerns had been raised internally and mitigation strategies are being developed.

For most businesses the online process for notification is most likely to be the easiest option as the JobKeeper measure for non-employing businesses may be challenging.