Key Outcomes

Title:	PLS working group – key outcomes
Issue date:	9 August 2019
Venue:	WEBEX
Event date:	6 August 2019 **Start:** 1:00pm **Finish:** 2:00pm

Chair:	Sonia Lark	**Facilitator:**	Sonia Lark
Contact	Sonya Summers	**Contact phone:**	02 472 57383

Attendees: names/section	ATO – Mick Ferris, Sonia Lark, Sonya Summers, Sharna Maltman, Steven Holmes, Paul Mosca, Alex Barnes, Danny Figueiredo, David Andreoli, Paul Walters, Amrik Singh, Ross Barns, Karen Greaves, David Baker, Warren Sturgiss, Grahame Dunnicliff, Michael Camplin, Rachel Phillips, Steven Irving, Lennard Foster. Industry – Jack Wee (Catsoft), Mike Denniss (Class Super), Mike Behling, Scott Reid (MYOB), Kevin Johnson (Reckon), Michael Wright, Saiful Larry, (Sage), , Shane Paxton (Thomson Reuters), Grant Whytcross (Wolters Kluwer), Kelvin Newton, Andrew Sprankling, Anthony Migliardi (Xero).
Apologies: name/section	Madhavi Talapaneni, Anupama Duggirala, Sandeep Gopalan (GovReports), Lex Edmonds (Microtax), Trent Hayes (MYOB), Nathan Kerr (One-Click), Darin Carter (Sage), Paul Siriwardana (Thomson Reuters), Briony Campbell, Lisa Kim, Tania Dai (Wolters Kluwer)

Next meeting	20 August 2019

Agenda item: 2– Action item update

Updates on outstanding items were provided. (see action items)

Agenda item: 3 – Introduction to ASFP

The Activity Statement Financial Processing (ASFP) rollout is part of the rationalisation in the back-end of ATO systems and will expose additional account types. DSPs can expect changes to the number of account types across the ASFP service offerings.

Michael Camplin provided a brief overview of the technical changes to the PLS services which developers can expect to see in the August EVTE release. Documentation artefacts for the changing services were released as part of July EVTE and the publication release on 8th August.

It was noted that there will be a presentation with full business context from the ASFP Project Team at the Tax Time event in September.

Agenda item: 4 – XBRL to XML – initial discussion

Steve Irving advised discussions on XBRL to XML changes have been brought up at both the recent SWG and DARG meetings. Most of the discussion has centred on how we can transition Income Tax Returns (NITR and IITR) to XML. The only way feasible way we are going to be able to transition ITRs to XML is to do it in stages. We want to determine whether DSPs believe it is valid to break the principle of having a form in a single format throughout – i.e. if we break the principle, it would mean that as we transition some schemas in ITR would be based on XBRL and others would be based upon XML – with eventually all being based on XML. Breaking the single format principle also implies that any new ITR forms or schedules would use XML – rather than introducing more XBRL based messages.

MYOB asked what format the error response would be in if it was related to both elements. Steve advised that care would be taken to ensure errors would come back as similar as possible. There are two key differences: Some format rules would be replaced by Schema Facets and for other business rules the key difference would be the XPath location. The Alias values in the MST and thus the value used in the error parameter values would remain the same.

Sage asked how C# validator rules work with XBRL and XML payloads. Steve advised the validator applies the same cross form rules, so they are very similar. Steve advised the other alternative was to stick with XBRL, with no transition to XML for any IITR form or schedule (including new ones being forced to use XBRL).

We are looking for early consultation and are holding a discovery workshop in Sydney on 15 August, from 9.00am to 11.00am. We are looking to discuss the proposition, hope to gain agreement on breaking the single format principle and define the conditions that would trigger a format change from XBRL to XML.

Although we are leveraging off the Tax Practitioner Digital Identity Group (TPDIG) meeting which is being held in Sydney on that day, we would like to open the invitation to the PLS working group.

Agenda item: 5 – IITR granular data workshop

Ross Barns gave an overview of last week's IITR granular data: income schedule workshop, advising the outcomes would be published shortly. He thanked the attendees advising the workshop had been very valuable.

The workshop had given the opportunity to listen to the impacts the deductions schedule implementation had had on DSPs, and to clarify the way forward for the income schedule. Changes to the Income schedule, Non-resident foreign income schedule, CGT schedule and Multi-property rental schedule will come into effect from 01/01/2020.

Ross stated there will be no significant changes to pre-fill.

The workshop looked at the DSP point of view in regard to the challenge points:
- Lead time
- Progressive release of MST
- Q&A document process – the forward plan is to embed this detail in the BIG and publish it as quickly as possible, to keep up the flow of clarification of issues
- Testing, Conformance suite and PVT
- PVT requirements – can we get actual candidates rather than trying to find some randomly
- WRE schedule – working toward being able to turn off the WRE schedule
- The Income schedule itself – rounding, truncation, size of fields, aggregation

We also went over the proposal of whether multiple schedules would be preferred for Income given the size/amount of data required for it, or whether a single schedule would be preferable, noting a single schedule would be easier to move to XML.

Communication was addressed – ensuring messaging to agents and associations made it clear that the implementation of granular data was an ATO initiative, not DSP driven.

Ross advised that it was expected that a draft MST would be available by the end of August/ beginning of September, noting it would not be a final document.

Agenda item: 6,7 – Tax time 2020 and platform update

Mick Ferris advised there was not much to report, and that everything was going smoothly. Transaction volumes were seen to be decreasing from those at the beginning of July.

There have been no major system changes in the last fortnight, and no proposed updates for the next fortnight.

Agenda item: 8 – DSP feedback/issues

Reckon asked when the presentation pack from the DARG meeting last week will be available. The DPO advised that both the pack and the outcomes will be published shortly.

Reckon also advised they were experiencing issues lodging due to an error related to preservation age not being updated in ATO systems. Rachel Phillips will follow up.

A number of DSPs advised they had noted there has not been a change advice published for First Home Super Saver (FHSS) account, but there are new fields, new offsets, new assessments and a new PAYGI calculation, resulting in lodgment issues.

Action item: The DPO will follow up to obtain and publish details of the changes.

Xero provided feedback that there had been poor client experience recently with both the technical and SBR helpdesks, with call drop outs, extended hold times, and poor advice being provided. David Baker advised he was interested in whatever feedback the DSPs were able to provide. He also suggested that DSP clients could call the Complex Issues Resolution team for assistance when the helpdesk were unable to assist.

Information on submitting a query through to the Complex issue resolution team can be found here: https://www.ato.gov.au/Tax-professionals/Services-and-support/Tax-technical-and-administrative-support/Complex-issue-resolution/