Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office

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EXTERNAL

PLS working group – key outcomes

Title:	PLS working group – key outcomes		
Venue:	WEBEX		
Event date:	10/12/2019	**Start:** 13:00 AEDT	**Finish:** 14:00
Chair:	Sonia Lark	**Contact:**	Sonya Summers 02 472 57383
Attendees:	**ATO –** Sonia Lark, Steven Holmes, Paul Mosca, Danny Figueiredo, David Andreoli, Amrik Singh, Ross Barns, Karen Greaves, Tania Andrews-Zanozin, Anupama Duggirala, Danielle Miller, Sangitha Sivayogaraj, Julie Sen, Sonya Summers, Paul Stasinowsky, Dino Di Lorenzo, Carl Bennett. **Industry** – Jack Wee (Catsoft), Sandeep Gopalan (GovReports), Mike Behling, Scott Reid, (MYOB), Kevin Johnson, Steven Ivanopoulos (Reckon), Michael Wright, Saiful Larry (Sage), Shane Paxton, Paul Siriwardana (Thomson Reuters), Danna Zheng, Robert Xie (Wolters Kluwer), Andrew Sprankling, Kelvin Newton, (Xero).		
Apologies:	Michael Ferris, David Baker, Mike Denniss, Sha Sha (Class Super), Simon Smart (eTax), Lex Edmonds (MicroTax), Trent Hayes (MYOB), Nathan Kerr (One-Click), Darin Carter, (Sage), Briony Campbell, Tania Dai, Lisa Kim, Grant Whytcross, (Wolters Kluwer), Anthony Migliardi (Xero).		

Agenda item: 1 – Introduction

Sonia advised that unless there was something urgent or relevant to bring to the group, the meeting which was going to be held on 7 January will be cancelled – so the first meeting back in the new year is expected to be 21 January.

Any urgent information will be emailed out to the group or, if necessary, the group will be reconvened.

Agenda item: 2 – Action item updates

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

Agenda item: 3 – Digital identity update

Paul Stasinowsky provided an update on work occurring in the Digital Identity space. He advised there have been some small changes deployed:

- Users are now required to verify their password when they create a new machine credential in RAM. (Previously, users only entered the password once so there was a chance they could mistype and not realise until they were attempting to use the machine credential)
- Static content has been added, providing guidelines on password requirements
- A defect was recently identified whereby the credential name was listed against the 'Legal entity name' value. This has now been corrected and it will pick up the entity legal name. Sage confirmed this is now working correctly. If anyone created a machine credential prior to the fix, and they notice that the credential displays the credential name at the legal name ID field, they should create a new machine credential, which will display the legal entity name.

Agenda item: 4 – Deceased indicator update BIG

Previously agents could not access deceased client accounts. In the last quarterly deployment there was an update made to allow agents to add a new client where there was a deceased indicator on record – it does however require the agent to sign (tick) a new declaration that they are authorised to act on behalf of the executor. As the update is not channel specific, it means the change is also available for PLS.

This will mean changes added to the add-client service and associated changes to the BIG.

A recent initiative also means that whenever the ATO receives notification from the Department of Births Deaths and Marriages of a deceased client, the client/tax agent link is automatically severed. If the agent then wants to re-add the link, they need to give the new declaration.

DSPs sought clarification over the actual wording of the declaration – does the agent need to BE the executor or can they be authorised BY the executor.

Carl Bennett/David Baker will seek clarification. (see action item: 12/11 – 03)

<u>Update:</u> Carl has provided clarification on the wording of the declaration in Online Services for Agents for adding deceased clients. Agents cannot proceed to add unless they check the checkbox: *"I confirm that I am aware this client is deceased and that I am the executor or administrator of their estate with grant of probate or letters of administration."*

Agenda item: 4 – Deceased indicator update BIG

Agenda item: 5 – Tax Time 2020

Sangitha advised that the December EVTE drop would include the final draft rules for the IITR income schedule (MST and validation rules) and no further changes were expected. The initial draft for the main IITR form was also expected in the December drop, however there would be further updates with this.(e.g. removal of medical expenses offset). The conformance suites will come out in a subsequent drop.

There are changes expected to a number of services (e.g. client account, transaction list, payment reference number) as part of the February EVTE drop.

Reckon queried when the IITR would be in EVTE as DSPs are unable to test. Sangitha advised it should be in December, but she would provide a timeline to distribute to the group.

Action item: Sangitha will provide a timeline for when DSPs can expect the IITR granular data changes in EVTE for testing.

Xero asked when the draft BIG will be released for the income schedule. Dino Di Lorenzo advised it should be available in Late January/early February. DSPs feel this is too late and want it sooner.

Action item: Dino will follow up when a draft IITR BIG can be made available.

Xero also queried when the PDFs of the draft forms will be published. Sonya advised they are progressively becoming available and there have been a number which should be published shortly.

Action item: The DPO and Carl Bennett/David Baker will follow up when the portal pre-fill specs for 2020 will be available. In addition, Carl will investigate differences in portal pre-fill reports v’s SBR pre-fill reports.

Ross Barns advised granular data will present no visible differences for DSPs for Capital Gains Tax (CGT) and Non-resident foreign income (NRFI) schedules. The changes will take effect in ATO systems in the way we transform and store these schedules.

Agenda item: 6 – Platform update

Anu advised there was nothing to report regarding the SBR2 platform as things had been pretty stable.

There was some internal patching undertaken which resulted in *curel* services failing Bluemix monitoring on Sunday, however this was quickly remediated and no clients were impacted.

ASFP will be deployed on 24 December. BDE, SBR1 and EVTE across SBR1 & SBR2

Agenda item: 6 – Platform update

channels will not available during the shutdown.

Two services will remain available:

- SuperTick: SRP fully available
- SuperTick and STP payevnt will be available via BBRP in ‘catch and hold’ mode

Performance testing is underway for the ‘catch and hold’ process for the proposed volumes.

There is an operations plan in place to support the ASFP ramp up & ramp down. Resource planning is in progress for hypercare and remediation of stuck batches.

Agenda item: 7 – DSP feedback/issues

MYOB requested additional specifications as part of the R&D changes as there was previously gaps in relation to Substituted Accounting Period (SAP) clients.

Action item: Sangitha will follow up the proposed R&D changes to ensure specs are provided to cover Substituted Accounting Period (SAP) clients as this was a gap last year.

Reckon queried whether the ‘add client’ service was near real-time as they had experienced some lagging issues and this was a problem for their end-users. Investigation will occur and the issue addresses through Reckon’s account manager. Other DSPs also were interested to see the outcome of the investigations as time lags would be a concern.

Thomson Reuters queried when the Improving the Test Environment focus group meeting would be rescheduled as they were keen to be part of these renewed conversations. Sonia apologised that the meeting which was supposed to go ahead this week has to be cancelled at short notice, but it would definitely be rescheduled. This however, would now be unlikely to occur until January.

Wishing you all a great break - the first meeting after the shutdown period will be 21 January 2020**.**