

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- ❑ offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- ❑ if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- ❑ pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

<p>Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.</p>

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- ❑ offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- ❑ if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- ❑ pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

<p>Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.</p>

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- ❑ offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- ❑ if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- ❑ pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.
--

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- ❑ offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- ❑ if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- ❑ pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- ❑ offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- ❑ if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- ❑ pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

<p>Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.</p>

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

<p>Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.</p>

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.
--

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- ❑ offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- ❑ if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- ❑ pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

<p>Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.</p>

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.

ATO support for employers with expansion of STP

As part of the expansion of Single Touch Payroll (known as STP Phase 2), from 1 January 2022, employers will need to report additional payroll information in their STP reports including:

- ❑ **disaggregation of gross amounts** (including separate reporting of paid leave, allowances, overtime, directors' fees and salary sacrifice amounts);
- ❑ **employment and taxation conditions** (including information from the TFN declaration); and
- ❑ **income types** (for example, salary and wages, working holiday maker income, foreign employment income).

To support employers with the move to STP Phase 2 reporting, the ATO will take the following approach:

- ❑ Employers that can start Phase 2 reporting by their digital service provider's deferral date (if applicable), do not need to apply to the ATO for more time.
- ❑ If an employer's software will be ready for 1 January 2022 and they are able to start reporting before 1 March 2022, they do not need to apply to the ATO for more time (that is, an automatic extension applies).

The ATO has also advised that penalties will not be applied for genuine mistakes in the first year of Phase 2 reporting until 31 December 2022.

Reminder of SG obligations for September 2021 quarter

Under the Superannuation Guarantee ('SG') scheme, employers are required to make quarterly contributions on behalf of their employees.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum contribution required is 10% (up from 9.5%) of an employee's Ordinary Time Earnings base, up to a maximum quarterly contribution base of \$58,920 for 2021/22.

Varying PAYG instalments due to COVID-19

Taxpayers can vary their pay as you go ('PAYG') instalments throughout the year if they think they will pay too much, compared with their estimated tax for the year.

To assist taxpayers who continue to be affected by COVID-19, the ATO has stated that it will not apply penalties or interest on varied instalments for the 2021/22 income year for excessive variations when the taxpayer has taken **reasonable care** to estimate its end of year tax.

The ATO says this means making a **reasonable and genuine attempt** to determine the tax liability. When considering if a genuine attempt has been made, the ATO takes into account what a reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances.

Note that variations do **not** carry over into the new income year.

Therefore, if a taxpayer made variations in the 2020/21 income year, they may need to vary again in 2021/22. The varied amount or rate will apply for all of the remaining instalments for the income year, or until the taxpayer makes another variation.

The ATO encourages taxpayers to review their tax position regularly and vary their PAYG instalments as their situation changes.

If a taxpayer realises they have made a mistake working out their PAYG instalment, they can correct it by lodging a revised activity statement or varying a subsequent instalment.

If a taxpayer is unable to pay an instalment amount, they should still lodge their instalment notice and discuss a payment arrangement with the ATO to ensure they will not have a debt at the end of the year.

Editor: Contact our office if you need help with any PAYG (or any related) issues.

Super is now following new employees

The ATO is reminding employers that, as of 1 November 2021, there is an extra step they may need to take to comply with the choice of super fund rules.

If a new employee does not choose a super fund, most employers will need to request the employee's 'stapled super fund' details from the ATO to avoid penalties.

A stapled super fund is an existing super account which is linked, or 'stapled', to an individual employee so that it follows them as they change jobs.

When a new employee starts, employers need to:

- offer eligible employees a choice of super fund;
- if the new employee does not choose a super fund, the employer will need to request stapled super fund details using *Online services for business*; and
- pay super contributions into one of the following:
 - the super fund they choose;
 - the stapled super fund the ATO provides if they have not chosen a fund; or
 - the employer's default fund (or another fund that meets the choice of fund rules) if the employer cannot pay into the two above.

ABN 'intent to cancel' program

The ATO is reviewing Australian business numbers ('ABNs') to identify potentially inactive ABNs for cancellation, and it has introduced a new automated process to allow taxpayers (or their tax agents) to confirm if their ABN is still required via a secure voice response system.

An ABN may be selected if the taxpayer has not reported business activity in their tax return, or there are no signs of business activity in other lodgements or third-party information.

The ATO reminds taxpayers that any income earned under an ABN needs to be reported in their tax return, regardless of the amount. By keeping their tax obligations up to date, the ATO can see they are actively undertaking a business (so, therefore, their ABN should not be cancelled).

Beware of scams

Scamwatch is warning that scams cost Australian consumers, businesses and the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year and cause serious emotional harm to victims and their families.

Cryptocurrency scams are the most 'popular' type of investment scams, representing over 50% of losses. Often the initial investment amount is low (between \$250 and \$500), but the scammers pressure the person to invest more over time before claiming the money is gone or ceasing communication and blocking access to the funds.

All age groups are losing money to investment scams, but the over-65s have lost the most, with \$24 million lost this year.

Some simple steps individuals can take to protect themselves (and their businesses) are:

- Never give any personal information to someone who has contacted you.
- Hang up and verify the identity of the person contacting you by calling the relevant organisation directly — find them through an independent source such as a phone book, past bill or online search.
- Do not click on hyperlinks in text/social media messages or emails, even if it appears to come from a trusted source.
- Go directly to a website through a browser (e.g., to reach the MyGov website, type 'my.gov.au' into the browser).
- Search for reviews before purchasing from unfamiliar online traders.
- Be wary of sellers requesting unusual payment methods.
- Verify any request to change bank details by contacting the supplier directly.
- Consider a multi-factor approval process for transactions over a certain dollar amount.
- Never provide a stranger remote access to your computer, even if they claim to be from a telco company such as Telstra.

Editor: Feel free to contact our office if you need any help at all with this or anything else.

Please Note: Many of the comments in this publication are general in nature and anyone intending to apply the information to practical circumstances should seek professional advice to independently verify their interpretation and the information's applicability to their particular circumstances.