

These are our terms and conditions.

Your Responsibilities

It is your responsibility to:

- provide us with all information necessary for dealing with your affairs including information which we reasonably request, in sufficient time to enable our services to be completed before any applicable deadline. This includes providing accurate and complete responses to questions asked of you by us within 10 working days. We will rely on such information being true, correct and complete and will not audit the information.
- authorise us to approach such third parties as may be appropriate for information that we consider necessary to deal with your affairs.
- to maintain adequate accounting records to enable us to prepare your annual financial accounts and income tax returns.
- to comply with the required tax and superannuation commitments, if any.
- pay our invoices as required by their due dates.
- provide prompt answers to our questions and subsequent requests for additional financial information.
- be up-front and honest in disclosing all your financial and taxation information.
- provide all financial information to us in a complete, concise format. This will help us complete your work on time and within budget.
- keep us up-to-date on all your business affairs and any financial arrangements that you are looking at entering into before the arrangement is concluded. We are here to give you the right, proactive advice before you act, but we cannot do this if you do not communicate with us regularly.
- read all correspondence, letter, telephone, e-mail or otherwise we send to you promptly and to act upon it as requested within the time stipulated or within reasonable time.
- listen to our advice.
- contact us immediately if for whatever reason you are not completely happy with our level of professional service or recent invoice that we have sent you.

Your disclosure and record keeping obligations

You are required by law to keep full and accurate records relating to your tax affairs in order to facilitate the preparation of accurate tax returns. The responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the particulars and information provided to us by you rests with you. Any advice given to you by us is only an opinion based on our knowledge of your circumstances.

You are also required to advise us on a timely basis if there are any changes to your circumstances that may be relevant to the performance of our services. Specifically, if any subsequent event results in the information you provided to us being inaccurate, incomplete or misleading, then you are obliged to advise us as soon as possible. We take no responsibility to the extent that our advice is inaccurate, incomplete or misleading because it is based on inaccurate, incomplete or misleading information being provided to us.

By accepting the terms in this Agreement, you will be taken to have agreed that the performance of our services is dependent on the performance of your obligations relating to disclosure and record keeping. You are responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the accounting records and disclosure to us of all material and relevant information.

The *Taxation Administration Act 1953* contains specific provisions that may provide you with “safe harbours” from administrative penalties for incorrect or late lodgement of returns if, amongst other things, you give us “all relevant taxation information” in a timely manner. Accordingly, it is to your advantage that all relevant information is disclosed to us as any failure by you to provide this information may affect your ability to rely on the “safe harbour” provisions and will be considered in determining the extent to which we have discharged our obligations to you.

You are also required to advise us if you become aware of any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest. Generally, a conflict of interest is any event which may result in us becoming unable to remain objective in the performance of our services to you. Some examples of events which could give rise to a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest during this engagement are changes to your business circumstances, events affecting your family (eg. death and/or marriage breakdown) or a legal action commencing against you

In relation to your financial records, you will be specifically responsible for retaining copies of all financial records and source documents for a period of 5 years.

Please note that if you do not provide us your financial information properly reconciled and in the format requested by us, any up-front or fixed prices in the proposals we have provided to you will not be applicable and the price for our services will be higher.

You and your Spouse/Partner

If you have a spouse or partner as a listed individual in this letter of engagement, then we will advise you and your spouse or partner on the basis that you are a family unit with shared interests. We may deal with either of you and may discuss with either of you the affairs of the other. If you wish to change these arrangements, please let us know.

Your rights and obligations under the taxation laws

You have certain rights under Australian taxation laws, including the right to seek a private ruling from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) or to appeal or object against a decision made by the Commissioner. As relevant, we will provide further information to you concerning your rights and obligations under the Australian taxation laws while we provide our service to you. You also have certain obligations under the Australian taxation laws, such as the obligation to keep proper records and the obligation to lodge returns by the due date.

Our obligation to comply with the law

We will comply with the professional and ethical standards of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board, available at apesb.org.au and the Code of Professional Conduct contained within the *Tax Agent Services Act 2009*.

This includes APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)*, which contains provisions that apply if we become aware of any actual or potential 'non-compliance with governing laws or regulations' (NOCLAR). Where any such non-compliance poses substantial harm (such as serious adverse consequences to investors, creditors, employees, auditor, group auditor or the public), we may be required to disclose the matter to an appropriate authority.

Under the Code of Professional Conduct, we are required to report any significant breaches of the code, either by ourselves or another agent, to the Tax Practitioners' Board within 30 days of becoming aware of the breach. Furthermore, if we become aware that a statement we have made or prepared and has been given to the Commissioner of Taxation is false, incorrect or misleading, then we are required by the Code of Professional Conduct to take the necessary steps to correct the statement. If the person who made the statement does not correct the statement, then we are required to notify the Commissioner.

We have a duty to act in your best interests. However, the duty to act in your best interests is subject to an overriding obligation to comply with the law even if that may require us to act in a manner that may be contrary to your interests. For example, we could not lodge an Income Tax Return for you that we knew to be false in a material respect.

Our advice and/or services will be based on Australian Taxation Laws in force at the date of the provision of the advice and/or services. It is your responsibility to seek updated advice if you intend to rely on our advice at a later stage. We note that Australian Taxation Laws are often subject to frequent change and our advice will not be updated unless specifically requested by you at the time of the change in law or announced change in law.

Required Disclosure

The *Tax Agent Services (Code of Professional Conduct) Determination 2024* requires that all tax agents make the following disclosures:

- 1 There is no matter known to me that could significantly influence your decision to engage me (or continue to engage me) for a tax agent service from 1 July 2024:
- 2 The Tax Practitioners Board maintains a register of Tax and BAS Agents. You can access and search this register here: <https://www.tpb.gov.au/public-register>.
- 3 If you have a complaint about my tax services, you should contact me in the first instance, preferably by email. I will acknowledge your complaint by return email and will attempt to resolve your complaint within 14 days. If you are unhappy with the outcome that I propose to you, you can then make a complaint to the Tax Practitioners Board. There is information on the process of complaining to the TPB and a link to lodge the complaint here: <https://www.tpb.gov.au/complaints>.

Know your customer

We are required to verify your identity for the purposes of the anti-money laundering laws. We may request from you such information as we require for these purposes and make searches of appropriate databases.

Qualifications on our services

To the extent our services involve the performance of services established by law, nothing in the engagement document or these terms reduce our obligations under such law.

Our services are limited exclusively to those you have engaged with us to perform. Unless otherwise specified in the engagement document, our services cannot be relied upon to disclose irregularities and errors, including fraud and other illegal acts, in your affairs. Neither an audit nor a review will be conducted and, accordingly, no assurance will be expressed.

Where our engagement is recurring, we may amend our engagement letter and these terms where we consider it necessary or appropriate to do so. If you do not accept such amendments, you must notify us promptly in which case you may terminate our engagement in accordance with section "Termination" below and those amendments will not apply prior to such termination.

Reliance on advice

We will endeavour to record all advice on important matters in writing. Advice given verbally is not intended to be relied upon unless confirmed in writing. If we provide verbal advice (for example during a meeting or telephone conversation) that you wish to rely on, you must ask us to confirm the advice in writing.

You must not act on advice given by us on an earlier occasion without first confirming with us that the advice is still valid and in context.

Investment and financial advisory advice

We are not licensed to provide you with investment or financial advice regulated under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).

Conflicts of interest

We will inform you if we become aware of any conflict of interest in our relationship with you (including between the various clients this engagement letter covers) or in our relationship with you and another client. Where conflicts are identified which cannot be managed in a way that protects your interests then we will be unable to provide further services to some or all of the clients to whom this engagement applies. If this arises, we will inform you promptly. We may act for other clients whose interests are not the same as or are adverse to yours, subject to the obligations of conflicts of interest and confidentiality referred to above.

Fees and payments

Our fees will be charged on the basis set out in the engagement document and have been set based on the level of skill, responsibility, importance and value of the advice, as well as the level of risk.

If we have provided you with an estimate of our fees for any specific work, this is an estimate only and our actual fees may vary. If it becomes apparent to us, due to unforeseen circumstances, that the estimated fee is inadequate, we may notify you of a revised figure and seek your agreement to it. Please note that if you do not provide us your financial information properly reconciled and in the format requested by us, any fee estimates in the proposals we have provided to you will not be applicable and the price for our services will be higher.

In some cases, you may be entitled to assistance with your professional fees, particularly in relation to any investigation into your tax affairs by the ATO. Assistance may be provided through insurance policies you hold or via membership of a professional or trade body. You will remain liable for our fees regardless of whether all or part are to be paid by someone else.

Payment of all outstanding invoices to us in full must be made before we lodge your Tax Returns with the ATO.

In the event of you being in default of your obligation to pay us within the payment terms as listed in your engagement document and the overdue invoice(s) are then referred to a debt collection agency and/or law firm for collection and we

are charged commission and/or disbursements and/or legal fees, you agree that you will be liable to pay as a liquidated debt to us any commission, disbursements and legal fees payable by us.

We intend to exercise these rights where in our opinion it is fair and reasonable to do so.

Director's / Trustee's Indemnity

In the event that the entity invoiced by us for our services is unable to discharge its liabilities to us, then the entity's Directors or Trustees agree to personally indemnify us for any such liability.

Confidentiality

In conducting an engagement, information acquired by us during the engagement, including information relating to your affairs whether it belongs to you or not or is provided by you or not, is subject to strict confidentiality requirements. That information will not be disclosed by us to other parties except as required or allowed for by law, or with your express consent.

The recent changes to Section 225 (and 360) of APES 110 on Responding to Non-Compliance with Laws and Regulations (NOCLAR) requires us to report a non-compliance with laws and regulations or acts or omission or commission, intentional or unintentional by a client or by those charged with Governance, by management or by other individuals working for or under the direction of a client which are contrary to the prevailing laws or regulations. If we decide that the disclosure of NOCLAR to the appropriate authority is the correct course of action, then such a disclosure to a regulatory authority (such as the ATO) will not be considered a breach of confidentiality under our code of ethics.

If we are required to make a disclosure to a regulatory authority, you agree to forever release us from any claim for costs or losses you incur in responding to or dealing with anything that arises from our disclosure.

We wish to draw your attention to our firm's system of quality control which has been established and maintained in accordance with the relevant APESB standard. Thus, our files may be subject to review as part of the quality control review program of IPA, which monitors compliance with professional standards by its members. We advise you that by accepting our engagement you acknowledge that, if requested, our files relating to this engagement will be made available under this program. Should this occur, we will advise you.

Privacy Act

We may collect personal information about your representatives, your clients and others when we provide services to you. If we do, you agree to work with us to ensure that we both meet the obligations that we each may have under the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) (as amended) (Privacy Act). The obligations may include notifying the relevant person to whom the personal information relates who we are and how we propose to use their personal information. Where you have collected personal information, you confirm that you have collected the personal information in accordance with the Privacy Act, that you are entitled to provide this personal information to us and that we may use and disclose the personal information for the purpose/s we provide our services to you. We will handle personal information in accordance with the Privacy Act.

Ownership of materials

We own the copyright and all other intellectual property rights in everything we create in connection with our engagements. Unless we agree otherwise, anything we create in connection with our engagements may be used by you only for the purpose for which you have engaged with us.

Our engagement may result in the production of Financial Statements, Income Tax Returns, Super Fund Documents, and other electronic documents or files which will be supplied to you. Ownership of these documents will vest in you. All other documents produced by us in respect of any engagement will remain our property.

All working papers prepared by us (in any form whatsoever, including physical and electronic) remain our property. We will retain these papers in accordance with our normal record keeping practices and our professional and legal obligations.

Please note that our work papers, calculations, accounting software files that we pay for and client files that we have created remain our intellectual property and will not be provided to you or any other third party.

Limitation of liability

Our liability is limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

You agree not to bring any claim against any of our principals or employees in their personal capacity.

To the maximum extent permitted by law, we are not liable to you for:

- Indirect, special or consequential losses or damages of any kind; or
- Liability arising due to the acts or omissions of any other person or circumstances outside our reasonable control, or your breach of these terms

Further information on the scheme is available from the Professional Standards Council's website: <http://www.psc.gov.au>

Limitation of third party rights

Our advice and information is for your sole use, and we accept no responsibility to any third party, unless we have expressly agreed in the engagement letter that a specified third party may rely on our work.

Termination

Each of us may terminate our agreement by giving not less than 21 days' notice in writing to the other party except where a conflict of interest has arisen, you fail to cooperate with us or we have reason to believe that you have provided us or any other person misleading or factually inaccurate information, in which case we may terminate this agreement immediately. Termination will not affect any accrued rights.

Interpretation

If any provision of the engagement letter or these terms is void, that provision will be severed and the remainder will continue to apply. If there is any conflict between the engagement letter and these terms, these terms will prevail.

Outsourced Services

When we hire external consultants to assist with your work, we will advise you of this and an estimated cost and timeframe of involvement will be provided to you for your approval.

Use of cloud computing services

We use the cloud computing systems listed below. These systems store files on remote servers operated by third parties, including the use of hosting providers in the United States of America and in Singapore.

- Intuit QuickBooks (a cloud accounting system)
- LodgeiT (a cloud tax return preparation system)
- BGL Simple Fund (a cloud based super fund accounting and administration system)
- BGL Simple Invest (a cloud based platform to track investments for companies, trusts and individuals)
- BGL CAS (a cloud company record management system)
- Microsoft OneDrive (cloud document management systems)
- reMarkable (cloud note-taking system)
- Office 365 (a cloud email and calendar system)
- FuseSign (a cloud electronic signature system)
- MailChimp (a cloud email management system)
- Content Snare (a data collection service allowing end-to-end encryption of data)

Storage of personal information

By agreeing to engage with us and accepting our services you will acknowledge and agree that your personal information may be stored electronically overseas.

Losses from unauthorised cyber-activity

We will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that any electronic data that contains your private information is securely stored and that any emails we send are protected and are not able to be intercepted by third parties. However, we cannot be held liable for any loss that you might incur as a consequence of any third party intervention that accesses, procures or copies any data that contains your private information from any medium or device we use to store or transmit this information.

In the event that, despite our company having taken reasonable precautions to securely store your private information, you suffer any losses arising from unauthorised cyber-activity, you agree to forever release us from any claim for your losses.

Preparation of Financial Reports

We agree to provide the following services to you (if listed in the Schedule of Services):

- Profit & Loss Statement;
- Balance Sheet; and
- Statement of Cash Flows (if requested).

We agree that:

- the financial reports will be compiled in accordance with APES 315 – Compilation of Financial Information;
- the preparation of the financial reports does not include an audit or review, meaning the work completed cannot be relied on to locate errors or irregularities including fraud or other illegal practices which may exist in the data provided by you;
- Our engagement will be limited to procedures involving the collection, classification and summarisation of financial information and does not include verification or validation of any of the data;
- the statement prepared will be a Special Purpose Financial Report (SPFR) and not a General Purpose Financial Report subject to the *Corporations Act 2001*; and
- this service includes maintenance of the charts of accounts for the general ledgers of your business entities.

This service does not include the preparation of any one-off financial reports for presentation to financiers. You may request this additional service in writing to us, and we will provide a separate Proposal for this work to you.

Tax Returns

We agree to provide the following services to you (if listed in the Schedule of Services):

- analyse, discuss and make recommendations regarding your Tax Returns; and
- prepare and lodge your annual Tax Returns.

We have not been engaged by you to review the accuracy of any previous Tax Returns lodged by you or a previous Tax Agent.

You are responsible for compliance with the substantiation provisions of the *Income Tax Assessment Act*.

We will not be responsible for any errors brought about by your failure to provide information or documents later found to be material to your tax affairs.

You are responsible for the timely provision of information to us, and we will not be responsible for any late lodgement or other fees and fines brought about by your failure to act in a timely manner.

Any tax refund estimate provided to you is an estimate only and we are not responsible and will not accept liability if the Australian Taxation Office determines an outcome which is different than that lodged

Single Touch Payroll

If engaged for this service, we will be authorized to prepare payroll related inputs including calculating and paying your employees as well as preparing your taxation and superannuation obligations.

You will authorize us to:

- prepare STP pay events on your behalf;
- make the relevant declaration to the ATO at the time of lodging each STP event; and
- make the finalization declaration to the ATO at the end of the financial year.

You (as the employer) will acknowledge and accept responsibility for:

- providing employee salaries and worked hours information to us before the appropriate pay-run date/s;
- ensuring that employee remuneration amounts comply with the requirements of the appropriate industrial awards and the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth); and
- ensuring that employees have the correct amount of PAYG withheld from each pay and the statutory rate of superannuation is paid quarterly.

We will only provide a lodgement service. We make no representations about the accuracy of the information submitted, the due date or whether it is received by the ATO.

Business Activity Statements (BAS)

As BAS are prepared periodically and lodged during the financial year, it is not possible for us to review the correctness of the underlying financial information as part of the preparation of the quarterly/monthly BAS. This review takes place after the conclusion of a financial year when we prepare the Annual Financial Statements.

Therefore, for the BAS we will rely on and process the financial information provided to us by you with minimal review of the primary source documents.

In doing that, we will make the following specific assumptions:

- the financial information provided by you to us is accurate;
- the financial information correctly states the GST position;
- you have the necessary supporting documents to satisfy the ATO for GST purposes; and
- you hold valid Tax Invoices and adjustment notes for all expenses incurred by you in respect of which an input tax credit is being claimed.

We will not be responsible for any errors brought about by your failure to provide information or documents or your failure to provide anything that is later found to be material to your BAS and bookkeeping requirements.

You are responsible for the timely provision of information and we will not be responsible for any late lodgement or other fees fines brought about by your failure to act in a timely manner.

We will not be responsible for any errors in the BAS other than those that can be shown to be our fault.