



---

## Explanatory Statement

# Taxation Administration – Single Touch Payroll – 2020-21 year Withholding Payer Number Exemption 2020

---

### General Outline of Instrument

1. This *Taxation Administration – Single Touch Payroll – 2020-21 year Withholding Payer Number Exemption 2020* instrument is made under subsection 389-10(1) of Schedule 1 to the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* (TAA).
2. This instrument exempts certain entities that do not have an Australian business number (ABN) but instead have a withholding payer number (WPN) from reporting under Single Touch Payroll (STP).
3. This instrument is a legislative instrument for the purposes of the *Legislation Act 2003*.
4. Under subsection 33(3) of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*, where an Act confers a power to make, grant or issue any instrument of a legislative or administrative character (including rules, regulations or by-laws), the power shall be construed as including a power exercisable in the like manner and subject to the like conditions (if any) to repeal, rescind, revoke, amend, or vary any such instrument.

### Date of effect

5. This instrument commences on 1 July 2020.
6. For the purposes of subsection 12(2) of the *Legislation Act 2003* this instrument does not adversely affect the rights or liabilities of any person other than the Commonwealth.

### What is the effect of this instrument

7. This instrument provides an exemption to any entity that:
  - (a) pays an amount referred to in Column 1 of the table in subsection 389-5(1) of Schedule 1 to the TAA
  - (b) does not have an ABN, and
  - (c) has been assigned by the Australian Taxation Office a WPN for the purposes of pay as you go withholding.
8. Entities within this class will be fully exempt from the requirement to report under section 389-5 of Schedule 1 to the TAA for the 2020-21 financial year.

9. The effect of this instrument is to extend the class exemption for relevant entities, provided by *Taxation Administration – Single Touch Payroll – Exemption for Employers with a Withholding Payer Number* (F2019L00437) legislative instrument, registered on 28 March 2019 for an additional financial year.
10. As a result, the relevant entities will be exempt from section 389-5 of Schedule 1 to the TAA for the 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years.
11. Any entity covered by this exemption may still choose to report under STP in accordance with Division 389 of Schedule 1 to the TAA notwithstanding the exemption provided by this instrument.
12. Compliance cost impact: Minor – There will be minimal impact for both implementation and ongoing compliance costs. The legislative instrument is minor and machinery in nature.

## **Background**

13. Division 389 of Schedule 1 to the TAA establishes STP reporting. Section 389-5 of Schedule 1 to the TAA provides for the reporting of certain amounts by employers to the Commissioner.
14. Subsection 389-10(1) of Schedule 1 to the TAA allows the Commissioner of Taxation to exempt by way of legislative instrument a class of entities from reporting under STP.
15. Subsection 389-5(5) of Schedule 1 to the TAA provides that section 389-5 does not apply to any entity to the extent (if any) that the entity is covered by an exemption under section 389-10 for the year in which the entity's conduct occurs.

## **Consultation**

16. For this instrument, broad public consultation was undertaken for a period of 4 weeks to 14 May 2020.
17. The draft instrument and draft explanatory statement were published to the ATO Legal database. Publication was advertised via the 'What's new' page on that website, and via the 'Open Consultation' page on [ato.gov.au](http://ato.gov.au). Major tax and superannuation publishers and associations monitor these pages and include the details in the daily and weekly alerts and newsletters to their subscribers and members. This ensures advice of the draft is disseminated widely across the tax professional community, and that they are in an informed position to provide comments and feedback.
18. No comments were received as a result of the consultation.

## **Legislative references:**

*Acts Interpretation Act 1901*

*Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*

*Legislation Act 2003*

*Taxation Administration Act 1953*

## **Statement of Compatibility with Human Rights**

This Statement is prepared in accordance with Part 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*.

### ***Taxation Administration – Single Touch Payroll –2020-21 year Withholding Payer Number Exemption 2020***

This Legislative Instrument is compatible with the human rights and freedoms recognised or declared in the international instruments listed in section 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*.

#### **Overview of the Legislative Instrument**

The Commissioner will afford an exemption to entities that have a withholding payer number (WPN) from reporting under Single Touch Payroll (STP) for the 2020-21 financial year. This will provide extra time to update software so that these entities can be compliant with the STP reporting requirements.

#### **Human rights implications**

This legislative instrument does not engage any of the applicable rights or freedoms because it is of a minor or machinery nature as it provides certain entities with an exemption from a reporting requirement for the 2020-21 financial year.

#### **Conclusion**

This legislative instrument is compatible with human rights as it does not raise any human rights issues.