Blog with Liz Westover, Superannuation Leader | Limited Licensing - stop the noise! - It is with interest and some frustration that I have been watching the commentary from various parties about how they think accountants will need to operate in the new world of limited licensing and their conclusions on a range of issues.

READ ARTICLE >

Did you know?

According to data recently released by the ATO, as at 31 March 2015, SMSFs have invested 32.5% of their assets in listed shares, 26.5% in cash and term deposits, 12.1% in non-residential property, 3.7% in residential property, 3.8% in listed trusts and 9.4% in unlisted trusts.
Meanwhile, APRA has reported that as at 31 March, 2015, funds with more than four members have invested 24% of their assets in Australian listed equities, 22% in international listed equities, 32% in fixed income and cash, 12% in property and infrastructure and 5% in unlisted equities.

Source: Australian Prudential Regulation Authority Quarterly Superannuation Performance report
Australian Taxation Office Self-managed super fund statistical report – March 2015

SPOTLIGHT IN SUPER

> SMSF Statistics – March 2015

The Australia Taxation Office (ATO) has released the latest statistics for the SMSF sector for the period ending 31 March 2015 in its Self-managed Super Fund Statistical Report – March 2015.

Key statistics from the report include:

- Total assets in SMSFs: $594.8 billion
- Total number of SMSFs: 550,706
- Total number of SMSF members: 1,044,004
- Average fund balance: $1,080,084
- Average member balance: $569,738

> APRA Quarterly Superannuation Performance Statistics – March 2015

The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) has released the Quarterly Superannuation Performance report for the superannuation industry sector for the period ending 31 March 2015. While the report is largely based on data provided by superannuation funds with more than four members, the report has indicated that total assets held within superannuation, including self-managed super funds, now stands at $2.05 trillion. This represents a 14.3% increase in total assets for the previous 12 months.

Key statistics from the report based on funds with more than four members (ie not including SMSFs) include:

- Total assets in MySuper products: $420.2 billion
- Total contributions for the 12 months to 31 March, 2015: $101.6 billion
- Total benefit payments for the 12 months to 31 March, 2015: $57.5 billion
- Average rate of return for the 12 months to 31 March, 2015: 13.0 per cent
> Accountants Exemption: Important facts and information Issue 9

New and updated information on the accountants exemption and limited licensing is now available for members in our Accountants Exemption: Important facts and information Issue 9 including:

- Reminder for those who already hold a limited licence to include their details on the new ASIC adviser register
- Limited demand for face-to-face RG 146 training workshops. What study method do you prefer?
- What should you do if you have been approached by a licensee?

Support for Members

Chartered Accountants ANZ has resources available to assist members with each step of the process regarding the removal of the accountants’ exemption and the introduction of limited licensing.

The first document members should read is *Financial Advice and Regulations: Guidance for the accounting profession*. The purpose of the guide is to provide members with guidance on what services you can and cannot provide if you do not hold or operate under a full Australian Financial Services licence (full AFSL) or a limited AFSL (limited licence).

For those contemplating their options to operate within the limited licensing framework, we have a range of resources on our website to assist you in your considerations, including:

- Information Guide: Accountants exemption reform
- Considerations when selecting an Australian Financial Services (AFS) Licensee

Additional resources are also available for members holding a Certificate of Public Practice. They need to be requested from Chartered Accountants ANZ by sending an email to financial.services@charteredaccountantsanz.com These resources include:

- DIY AFS Licensing kit
- Limited Australian Financial Services Licensing: your obligations
- Templates for manuals and guides required under licensing

Members can also find additional information in the last 9 updates provided in the fortnightly bulletin “In The Know”, copies available on our website.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS NEWS

> National SMSF Conference 2015 – Register your interest

If you work in the SMSF sector, you'll know how much the industry has grown in recent years. You might also be wondering how to keep on top of changing legislation and stay ahead of the competition.

The National SMSF Conference 2015 will be held in the Gold Coast, bringing together some of the best and brightest minds in superannuation and raising the issues that matter to you most.

Register your interest for the 2015 SMSF Conference.

> CA SMSF Specialisation - 2015 dates

The CA SMSF specialisation is a program which allows you to build on your Chartered Accountant designation, gain formal recognition from your professional association and demonstrate to your clients that you stand out amongst the crowd of SMSF practitioners.

For those interested, there are two pathways available to qualify for the CA SMSF specialisation, post-graduate
studies or the completion of workshop and assessment, both of which will run through the University of New South Wales (UNSW). Further information on the pathways are available on our website.

Course dates for 2015 CA SMSF specialisation workshops are:

- Distance Learning Intake 2 – 28 September 2015
- Intensive Workshop Sydney – 14 to 16 October 2015
- Intensive Workshop Melbourne – 21 to 23 October 2015
- Exam Intake 2 will be held on Saturday 21 November 2015.

Detailed course and fee information can be found via UNSW website. Training applications and queries should be made directly with UNSW.

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### IMPENDING DATES AND DEADLINES

#### Tax lodgement and payment dates

The following dates highlight key superannuation related tax lodgement deadlines approaching in the next few months. The list of key dates is not comprehensive and is a guide only. Events or timelines may change. Unless otherwise stated, the due dates provided are for 30 June balancers only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Obligation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28 May 2015</td>
<td>Due date for lodging the quarterly Superannuation guarantee charge statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 June 2015</td>
<td>Due date for lodging 2014 tax returns for company and super funds (that did not have to lodge earlier), and were eligible and applied for the 5 June 2015 concession.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 June 2015</td>
<td>Due date for paying super guarantee contributions to qualify for a tax deduction in the 2014–15 financial year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 July 2015</td>
<td>Due date for payment of super guarantee contributions for quarter 4 (1 April - 30 June) - contributions to be made to the fund by this date.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
ATO NEWS

> ATO website updates

The following information is new on ato.gov.au since the last update:

**Self-managed super fund statistical report - March 2015**
The ATO has released the latest statistical report for the self-managed super fund market for the period to 31 March 2015.

**Fund Validation Service changes**
After industry consultation the ATO has implemented the Standard Business Reporting 2 (SBR2) version of the Fund Validation Service (FVS). The new FVS lookup web services –including the bulk service – have been deployed and are available for use. Funds and developers are encouraged to implement and deploy these services no later than 30 June 2015. Any entity not able to access the web services after 30 June 2015 must have alternate arrangements in place with a third party provider.

**SMSF webinars**
The ATO frequently run webinars to keep both professionals and trustees up to date with the latest SMSF news and advice. Check regularly at this site for information about upcoming webinars and to view recordings of ones you may have missed.

**Free webinars for self-managed super fund trustees**
Anyone thinking about setting up a self-managed super fund (SMSF) or would like to know what is involved in running an SMSF, these webinars provide an overview of the role and responsibilities of trustees and where to get more information.

**SuperStream webinars for accounting professionals**
A series of webinars were held by the ATO for accounting professionals to assist them in ensuring their clients are meeting their SuperStream obligations. A copy of the webinar presentation is available from the ATO website.

**SuperStream webinars for employers**
A series of webinars were held to assist employers in meeting their SuperStream obligations. A copy of the slides from the webinar can be downloaded from the ATO website. Dates for additional webinars are expected to be announced shortly.

**SuperStream regional information sessions**
The ATO is running SuperStream information sessions in regional centres across Australia to introduce a consistent and simplified way of making contributions to super funds. Sessions have already been held across Australia with upcoming sessions to be held in Tamworth and Mildura. Registration is required on the ATO website.

**Determining a fund's compliance status**
The ATO has confirmed they treat an SMSF with status of 'Registered – status not determined' as a complying fund to allow them to receive employer contributions and rollovers from other complying superannuation funds.

**System Maintenance**
This page contains scheduled details of ATO system unavailability as a result of maintenance and system issues affecting their online services.

> ATO trusts letter campaign for SMSF clients

The ATO is reviewing the returns of self-managed superannuation funds (SMSF’s) who have received distributions from a discretionary trust.

Distributions of income to SMSFs from discretionary trusts are considered to be non-arm’s length income, which is taxed at the highest marginal rate and recorded at label U2 of the SMSF’s annual return.
Trustees of SMSF’s (or their advisors) will receive an ATO letter asking them to contact the trustee of the distributing trust and review the trust deed and any resolutions to determine whether the amount reported in the annual return is non-arm’s length income.

Based on the review, either an amendment will need to be lodged or a different letter should be used in the CODE box at label 11M of the SMSF annual return.

Refer Non-arm’s length income

APRA UPDATES

> APRA releases Quarterly Superannuation Performance and MySuper Statistics for March 2015

The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) has released its March 2015 Quarterly Superannuation Performance publication and March 2015 Quarterly MySuper Statistics report.

The Quarterly Superannuation Performance provides industry aggregate summaries of financial performance, financial position and key ratios.


View the Media release on the APRA website

> APRA has published the statistics publication Superannuation Fund-level Profiles and Financial Performance (2014 interim edition)

The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) has published the statistics publication Superannuation Fund-level Profiles and Financial Performance (2014 interim edition).

The Superannuation Fund-level Profiles and Financial Performance publication provides detailed data for all funds (excluding small funds) for each year from 2004 to 2014, and allows users to analyse APRA-regulated funds across a range of measures.

> Australian Prudential Regulation Authority Letter to RSE Licensees

On 20 May 2015, APRA released a letter to RSE licensees, available here, outlining APRA’s decision to determine certain superannuation data non-confidential and summarising next steps in relation to consultation on APRA’s annual superannuation statistical publications.

> Determinations

Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (confidentiality) determination No. 8 of 2015

On 15 May 2015, APRA made Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (confidentiality) determination No.8 of 2015 (the instrument) which determines that all or specified parts of the superannuation reporting standards listed in the instrument do not contain confidential information. View the Regulation and Explanatory Statement.

Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (confidentiality) determination No. 6 of 2015

On 15 May 2015, APRA made Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (confidentiality) determination No.6 of 2015 (the instrument) which determines that all or specified parts of the superannuation reporting standards listed in the instrument do not contain confidential information. View the Regulation and Explanatory Statement.
ASIC UPDATES

> Women’s Money Toolkit - new tailored resource for women about money

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission has launched a new Women’s Money Toolkit on ASIC’s MoneySmart website.

Women face unique financial challenges, such as having less super than men, living longer and taking time out of paid work to care for others.

The Women’s Money Toolkit has tips and tools to help you manage your money, gain an edge on your finances and deal with life’s ups and downs.

Answer some simple questions and receive a tailored list of topics just for you that may include having a baby, relationships and money, being a carer, sorting out your super and many more. Create a personalised to-do list of actions you can take to make the most of your money.

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> 15-118MR ASIC releases first licensing activity report

ASIC today published its first report on its approach to licence applications to help inform businesses and individuals wanting to provide financial services or credit, or register as a liquidator or auditor. More information, and see Report 433 Overview of licensing and professional registration applications: July to December 2014.

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GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY UPDATES

> Government consultations

Open consultations

The following superannuation related consultations are currently open for comment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consultation</th>
<th>Submission Closing Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tax White Paper</td>
<td>1 June 2015</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Members are encouraged to prepare their own submissions or forward any issues they wish for us to raise on their behalf to the Superannuation Team no later than one week before the submission closing date.

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> Treasury Update

Proposed Financial Institutions Supervisory Levies for 2015-16

Treasury in conjunction with the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) prepared this paper, seeking submissions on the proposed financial institutions supervisory levies that will apply for the 2015-16 financial year.
The financial institutions supervisory levies are set to recover the operational costs of APRA and other specific costs incurred by certain Commonwealth agencies and departments, including the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, the Australian Taxation Office, and the Department of Human Services.

**Closing date for submissions:** Wednesday, 10 June 2015

> Case

**SMSF trustee disqualified for dishonesty offences re speeding fines**
- *Re Shaw and FCT [2015] AATA 288*

The AAT has upheld a decision not to waive the “disqualified person” status of a trustee of a self-managed superannuation fund (SMSF) following the trustee's conviction for dishonesty offences involving the trafficking of demerit points on his driver's licence: *Re Shaw and FCT [2015] AATA 288* (AAT, File No 2014/0696, Cunningham SM, 1 May 2015).

**View more – Background and the Decision**

> Gazettes

**Gazettes - Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993**

Disqualification from being a trustee or a responsible officer of a body corporate that is a trustee, investment manager or custodian, of a superannuation entity – Mrs Simonne Nimarota; Mr Andrew Nimarota; Mr Dale Sinnott; Mr Damian Rae; Mr Phanith K Ngim; Mr Stan Klaromenos; Mrs Sothea Ngim; Ms Mirjana Klaromenos; Mr Jason Lacey; Mr John Brosnan; Mrs Averill Lacey; Mrs Christine Jones; Ms Diane Brosnan; Mr Andre Valles; Mr Robert W Jones; Mrs Yazbie Valles; Mr Shane Gifford; Mr Warren King; Christopher Jones; Jenny Heathershaw; Mr Darrin J Finlayson; Mr Matthew Colin Brown; Mr Phillip Robinson; Mrs Alison Finlayson; Mrs Debby Joy Robinson; Ms Catherine Joan Rex.

**LIBRARY RESOURCES**

You might have noticed the Knowledge Centre is now called the Library. While offering the same services you have enjoyed in the past, please keep an eye out for new exciting developments.

> **Recent Journal Articles on Superannuation**

**How to solve a family problem**
by Steven Enticott; *Smart Investor* 2015 p 70-71
Discusses how to boost the "income-starved" SMSFs of retirees while simultaneously helping their family members get a start in the property market. Offers a theoretical example.
Download a copy of this article (Member login required)

**Reining in premiums**
by Lisa Chikarovski; *Superfunds* 2015 p 26-27
Looks at the issues causing super group insurance premiums to rise, and offers suggestions of how to solve this.
Download a copy of this article (Member login required)

**SMSFs investing in overseas property - in-house assets trap**
by Stephen Lawrence and Stuart Jones; *InTax* 2015 p 8-9
Discusses the purchasing of overseas holiday property with capital invested in self-managed superannuation funds. Reinforces the view this must be approached with great caution and outlines the risks and complications involved.

Download a copy of this article (Member login required)

To view these articles:

- Click on the download link above
- Log in with your member ID number and the password you use to log in to the Chartered Accountants ANZ website
- Click the green link under “Online Resources” to download the article

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Some companies block access to Dropbox. If you are unable to download, let us know and we’ll email the article to you. Email the library team.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

> Face to Face

SMSF Day
In the world of SMSFs, staying informed is crucial. SMSF Day 2015 is your opportunity to be challenged on what you know about SMSFs by some of the best SMSF professionals in Australia. Over the course of this interactive day, five different SMSF experts will address important trending areas in the SMSF sector by testing your knowledge and equipping you to advise on those topical areas.

Winter Tax and Super School
The annual Winter Tax & Super School 2015 is on its way to you. To help you stay informed on the latest key developments in tax, superannuation and financial advisory services, we are sending our team of experts to a location near you.

National SMSF Conference 2015
The 2014 National SMSF Conference was an overwhelming success. The feedback received highlights that the strengths of the conference lie in its technical content, high calibre speakers and the provision of guidance and solution for the accounting profession and auditors working in the SMS sector. Register your interest now for the 2015 National SMSF Conference.

> LiveOne - Online training sessions

SMSF Essentials Series 2015
Whether you're starting your career in superannuation or an experienced professional looking for a refresher, this series will look at several areas in superannuation that are crucial for any solid foundation. LiveOne, available OnDemand until 23, October 2015.

Strategic SMSF Sessions
We cover the important and complex issues affecting superannuation, predominantly SMSFs, including how to get more money into super, death benefits, protecting super and provide timely insights into superannuation developments, including recent ATO rulings and determinations.

Dealing with complex SMSF audit issues
Through examples and case studies, this series will show you the best practice for dealing with complex audit issues faced by practitioners. LiveOne, available OnDemand until 30 December 2015

MEMBER SERVICES
The fortnightly Superannuation Bulletin is an initiative of the Superannuation Team of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand.

Superannuation Enquiry Service
The Superannuation Team responds to enquiries from members on SMSFs and Superannuation issues. This service provides general assistance and guidance only. Members have the responsibility to apply their own professional judgment. You can submit a query in writing via email to the Superannuation Team.

Financial Services Enquiries
The Financial Services Team responds to enquiries from members on RG146, Accountants' Exemptions, AFS Licensing and general Financial Services questions. This service provides general assistance and guidance only. You can submit a query in writing via email to the Financial Services Team.

Our website
The Superannuation home page of our website contains a wealth of material on current issues in this area and back issues of the Superannuation Bulletin as well as details on our SMSF Specialisation.

Manage your subscription >

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