

## BATES | COSGRAVE

INTERNATIONAL FACTSHEET: COMMON REPORTING STANDARDS

## COMMON REPORTING STANDARDS

INTERNATIONAL TAX FACTSHEET



# CUSTOMERS OF AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARE INCREASINGLY BEING ASKED TO CONFIRM THEIR TAX RESIDENCY STATUS.

Australian and foreign residents should be aware that many Australian financial institutions will increasingly be asking them to confirm their tax residency status when gathering information for financial products. Why? It is part of the implementation requirement for a Common Reporting Standard that is designed to help countries identify and combat tax evasion.

### WHAT IS THE COMMON REPORTING STANDARD?

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation

and Development (OECD) has developed the Common Reporting Standard (CRS) to help tax jurisdictions to combat tax evasion by foreign residents.

It was created as a global standard for the automatic exchange of account information held by financial institutions in different countries and stemmed from the US Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FACTCA), but it is broader in terms of reportable account holders and financial institutions.

### WHICH COUNTRIES ARE PARTICIPATING IN CRS?

There are approximately 100 countries that have committed to report under the CRS, including

the United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland and China.

There are also countries participating from more exotic locations previously known as tax havens, such as the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Isle of Man, Guernsey, and Jersey.

#### WHO IS LIKELY TO ASK FOR TAX STATUS?

Australian financial institutions across a number of services are likely to ask for information about tax status, including:

- · Banks, building societies and credit unions
- Life insurance companies that offer products with an investment component
- Investment companies that offer private equity funds, exchange traded funds, managed funds and brokers that hold financial assets for the account of others.

### WHAT INFORMATION WILL THEY BE LIKELY OR REQUIRED TO SHARE?

Reported information from financial institutions

may vary depending on the nature of their holding, but in most cases, it will include the type of account, name, address, date and place of birth of the account holder.

Other information that may be shared could include a breakdown of investment income such as dividends, interest and income from certain insurance contracts, account balances, and sales proceeds from financial assets.

## ATO'S DATA MATCHING PROGRAM DESIGNED TO PREVENT TAX EVASION

The Australian Tax Office participates in the global information exchange effort to ensure it can keep track of Australians who may have foreign income.

The ATO will pass on relevant information about foreign residents' accounts from Australian financial institutions on a reciprocal basis. The ATO receives information from offshore tax authorities and financial institutions, which it can then use to verify that the income has been declared in Australian tax returns.

#### KNOW YOUR TAX OBLIGATIONS

If you have offshore investments, either as an Australian resident or as a non-resident, then it's important to understand the implications for your tax obligations and where you're likely to be taxed.

For more information about how tax authority data matching and sharing impacts you, contact us on 02 9957 4033 or email our team.

Last updated January 2017. This factsheet is provided for information purposes only and is correct at the time of publishing. It should not be used in place of advice from your accountant. Please contact us on 02 9957 4033 to discuss your specific circumstances.

## ABOUT US

#### Our Expertise

#### Domestically

Bates Cosgrave advises domestic and international businesses.

We provide highly personalised services across a wide range of industries with in-depth knowledge in real estate, renewable energy, import and distribution, health professionals, inbound and outbound investments, and innovative/start-up businesses.

#### Internationally

Although we are a boutique firm based in Sydney, we have access to a strong global network and specialise in advising cross-border transactions and global structuring.



## OUR TEAM

Directors



DIRECTOR

CA, B. COMM, M ACC, M
TAX, MINTAX, CTA

VIEW ONLINE PROFILE

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Matt joined Bates Cosgrave in April of 2007 as a manager and was promoted to Director from 1 July 2009. Matt has a reputation for his technical expertise and experience in specialist advice to professionals including medical doctors, professional investors and family offices, multinational companies.

His diverse knowledge on International tax, expatriates tax, employee share schemes, business structuring including cross border issues, CGT and GST is formidable.

His industry knowledge is broad and includes medical services, real estate, pharmaceuticals and technology companies. As tax advisors, we must think ahead and consider not just the current situation but the future.

Good advice reflects not simply value now, but lasting value.



DIRECTOR
CA, B.COMM, FTIA
VIEW ONLINE PROFILE

Glenn is passionate about business improvement and works with our clients to get the fundamentals of their business right, serving as a mentor through their business journey of establishment, growth and exiting when the time is right. His approach has helped many businesses evolve from start-up to commericalisation and ultimately setting up their business in the best possible position for sale.

Glenn's extensive experience as a strategic advisor ensures his clients have a clear focus for their personal and business goals, including a roadmap for future success and alignment of multidisciplinary advice to achieve best outcomes.

Glenn is also a professional adviser to engineers, valuers, project managers, accountants, lawyers and high net worth individuals, with a strong portfolio of clients in import and distribution, professional advisory and innovative businesses.



#### contact us

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