



*Prepared by Maria Benardis*

## AAPB BAG Meeting Notes May 2008

The ATO has released the minutes to the meeting held on 20 May 2008. A summary of the meeting was provided in an earlier tax tips update.

Issues discussed at the meeting included:

**1. Technical issues escalation** - Maria Benardis spoke to the topic. She proposed technical issues raised in this forum should be treated in a similar way to issues raised at the ATPF, including publication of responses on the website. Points from individual members included:

- there is a need to check the adequacy of feedback loops, as seemingly some issues were discussed at the National Tax Liaison Group (NTLG) but not reported back to the BAG
- that technical items appropriate for one of the NTLG Sub-committees could be referred to them and the action item closed. If the BAG wanted feedback a separate action item could be opened
- the BAG could deal with technical issues through a sub-committee, and/or
- the BAG secretariat could research issues and report back.

The Chair indicated that the issue could be included in discussions at the next meeting.

**2. Treasury exposure draft and update** – an update was provided.

Other issues were discussed and raised by AAPB that were not recorded in the formal minutes despite advising the ATO to do so. This included:

- AAPB expressed concerns with the membership of the committee and the need to have consistent and equal appointment practices as adopted in other ATO committees. AAPB also expressed an interest in nominating a bookkeeper member to join the BAG committee.
- A concern was also raised in relation to the need for the ATPF committee to interact more with the BAG committee and vice versa. There are many issues that affect bookkeepers being discussed at the ATPF committee that the BAG committee is not involved in or not made aware of.
- The need to properly structure the committee and the need for it to run along the same lines as other committees such as ATPF was recommended by Maria. Maria also observed the GST issue on vouchers was on the NTLG-GST agenda and appeared to have been responded to there however no response was forwarded to AAPB.

You can view the minutes at:

<http://www.ato.gov.au/taxprofessionals/content.asp?doc=/content/00155885.htm>

### *Disclaimer*

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