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## Bag Issues Log Item 07-002: WA Tax Seminars

Log Item sent: 27/04/2007

### WA Tax seminars (AAPB agenda item)

On the web-site the ATO recommends that the following industry should attend:

"For example: IT consultant, bookkeeper, landscaper, bricklayer".

Topics that will be discussed include tax basics, e-Record and online products workshops, and employer obligations.

When you look into the detail re: tax basics will discuss income tax and business deductions, special rules for income tax. There is no disclaimer on the web-site that the session covering this would only be appropriate for all listed in the examples above other than bookkeepers.

Please see the below link:

<http://www.ato.gov.au/businesses/content.asp?doc=/content/80340.htm>

I believe that these seminars are a great initiative and a positive move by the ATO however, I am concerned that bookkeepers may attend these sessions and view that it is now acceptable for them to assist clients with income tax related matters given that the ATO is marketing such seminars directly to them and including such content. Can you please clarify how this issue will be addressed? This in my opinion could be viewed as an encouragement by the ATO to bookkeepers that it is OK for them to venture into income tax and could lead to breaches of section 251L of the ITAA 1936. Perhaps a note should be added on the web-site and such content deleted from the hand outs or a special session should be held specifically for bookkeepers, which excludes such content.

I would also like to recommend that it would be a good idea if such initiatives like this perhaps were run by the BAG committee before they are published on the web-site and offered to the public at large. This way we can assist the ATO in identifying any issues we see as early as possible.

### ATO response

The ATO provided the following response on 23 July 2007:

As previously discussed, reference to bookkeepers has now been removed from the Tax Office seminars in WA, link attached: <http://www.ato.gov.au/businesses/content.asp?doc=/content/80340.htm>

### *Disclaimer*

*This document provides general information current at the time of writing. It is not intended that the information provide advice and should not be relied on as such. Professional advice should be sought prior to actions on any of the information contained herein.*

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