

**From:** [Accounts CCS Group](#)  
**To:** [Tax Board](#)  
**Subject:** Feedback  
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I saw you wanted feedback on what tax issues are of particular concern, and my clients concerns are around compliance concessions.

The tax issue that is of a high concern to numerous clients at the moment is Single Touch Payroll. I called the ATO last week with some questions from my clients about STP and the ATO could not answer any of them. They just referred me to their website, which has very little information, and does not answer any of my questions. It also means that my clients will all have to upgrade to the latest version of MYOB, which will cost between \$1,300 and \$2,000 depending on their current version.

My questions were the following:

I have a client with ONE employee, which is the director's wife. She only gets paid intermittently, one to two times per month, some months not at all. When she is paid my client transfers the funds to her account, however my client does not enter the transaction in payroll. I enter it when I am there once a month. This client does not know how to run a payroll in MYOB and he is not in the office anyway to do so. How is this client to lodge STP on the same day that the employee is paid when I am not there to enter the transaction or lodge the report?

I have a client with 5 employees, including himself as a director. The client's wife calculates a manual payroll using a timesheet form that I have made up for her, and looks up a paper copy of the tax tables to work out how much PAYG to deduct. Neither the director or his wife understand computers. I do all the MYOB entries. The payroll is done every week manually, and I enter it into MYOB from the manual records when I am there once a month. How is this client to lodge STP on the same day that the employee is paid when I am not there to enter the transaction or lodge the report? It will cost this client around \$1,300 to upgrade MYOB.

I have a client with 3 employees. He does not understand payroll, so his employees are on salary with fixed hours and a fixed amount every week, which has been set up as a weekly recurring transaction in their internet banking. No-one is there who can run a payroll in MYOB, I enter the payroll when I am there once a month. How is this client to lodge STP on the same day that the employee is paid when I am not there to enter the transaction or lodge the report.

I have a client with 4 employees, who has exactly the same scenario as the client with 3 employees above, employees are on salary weekly, I enter the payroll once a month.

It is not physically possible to drive to these four clients every week. If I set a day aside to take care of their payroll, I would have a one hour drive for an hours work, and then a half hour drive for an hour and a half's work, then a 20 minute drive for one hours work, then a 20 minute drive for half an hours work, then a 45 minute drive home. That means it will take a whole day of travelling for 4 hours work.

The internet is not reliable enough at any of these clients premises for me to put MYOB in the cloud, they are all still on ADSL.

I thought this Liberal federal government was supposed to be cutting red tape for business? Introducing STP is more like wrapping it in red tape, putting it in a box, then wrapping more red tape around the box, then wrapping more red tape around the room that the box is in.

My clients are all universal in that they would like to have a concession available to enable small mum & dad businesses (5 or less employees) to lodge STP once a month instead of every week.

Also I had another question, if I am sick or on holidays what happens if I can't lodge STP? When I have been away previously I set up a forward payment in the banking of my client that has over 20 employees, so that the staff get paid an average pay amount on payday, then the following week I make any adjustments in their next pay. Surely there is some allowance for this? However when I asked the ATO the other day, they said there is NOT. This means I am basically not allowed to be sick or have a holiday, otherwise my clients will be in trouble for not lodging their STP on time.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like any further information.

Kind regards  
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