



Media Release

The Corporate Tax Association welcomes the Government's commitment to funding dedicated drafting resources

The Corporate Tax Association (CTA) welcomes the Government's provision of \$16.9 million to the Department of the Treasury and \$5.2 million to the Office of Parliamentary Council (OPC) in the 2017-18 Budget to ensure dedicated drafting resources.

The CTA has long advocated for the need for both the Treasury and the OPC to have sufficient drafting resources. Inadequate drafting resources was a significant contributing factor to the backlog of 92 announced but unenacted tax measures in November 2013. The Government undertook a decisive and comprehensive process to clear this backlog of inherited measures in December 2013. Nevertheless, the ongoing pressure on drafting resources since that time has seen that list of announced but unenacted measures start to grow again. Limited drafting and policy resources has also contributed to several recent consultation processes failing to meet expected timeframes and expectations.

Sufficient and dedicated drafting resources are a crucial part of an efficient tax system that provides certainty to taxpayers in a timely manner. Lags between the announcement of a tax measure and its enactment creates significant uncertainty for businesses attempting to comply and for the ATO in trying to administer the law. Ensuring tax measures are enacted within a reasonable period of announcement helps both businesses and the ATO to plan ahead.

We commend the Minister for Revenue and Financial Services Kelly O'Dwyer for listening to the concerns of the CTA and other stakeholders and taking real action to address the issue.

24 May 2017

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