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# client alert

## tax news | views | clues

### Super contributions caps – more tinkering of rules

Due to deteriorating global economic and financial conditions, the Government late last year announced its decision to "pause" the indexation of the general superannuation concessional contributions cap for one year in 2013–14, so that it will remain at \$25,000. Indexation of the cap will be deferred until 2014–15, when it is expected to rise to \$30,000. The Government said this will also result in a pause in the indexation of the concessional contributions cap for individuals aged 50 and over and the non-concessional contributions cap.

**TIP:** Contributions above the annual contributions caps are subject to excess contributions tax levied on the individual. Different annual contributions caps apply depending on your age and whether your contributions are classified as "concessional" or "non-concessional".

### Tax discount for interest income deferred

The Government has announced its decision to defer the start date of the 50% tax discount for interest income for individuals for 12 months. The proposal is now expected to commence on 1 July 2013. Under the proposal, the discount would apply on up to \$500 (increasing to \$1,000 the following year) of interest earned on deposits held with any bank, building society or credit union, as well as bonds, debentures or annuity products.

### ATO eye on education tax refund claims

The Australian Tax Office (ATO) has commenced a

data-matching program in which it will request and collect from Centrelink the names and addresses of taxpayers eligible for the Family Tax Benefit Part A. The program will cover the 2009, 2010 and 2011 financial years. It is expected the records of approximately two million individuals will be matched. The aim of the data-matching program is to identify potential non-compliance with taxation obligations in relation to taxpayers claiming the education tax refund.

**TIP:** The education tax refund helps eligible families and independent students meet the cost of primary and secondary school education. There are eligibility requirements as well as limits on how much you can claim. If your expenses exceed your refund limit for the year, any excess can go towards your following year's refund claim, as long as you are still eligible.

### ATO Warning: default assessments to issue soon

The ATO today (Tues 24.1.2012) issued a warning to tax professionals with clients who have overdue income tax returns. It says if overdue returns are not lodged by 3 February 2012, it will begin issuing default assessments to non-lodging taxpayers. Further, the ATO says where default assessments are issued, taxpayers may incur penalties. It says the penalties may include failure to lodge on time penalties, and administrative penalties of 75% of the tax related liability from the default assessment.

### Court denies franking credits linked to "debt-like" securities

The majority of the Full Federal Court has confirmed that an anti-avoidance rule under the tax law applied to cancel franking credits that arose to an individual taxpayer from distributions paid on "debt-like"

securities he had subscribed for in an Australian bank. The securities were Perpetual Exchangeable Resaleable Listed Securities V (PERLS V securities) issued by the Commonwealth Bank. The individual involved in the case is a representative taxpayer of some 33,000 investors. The taxpayer has sought an appeal against the decision in the High Court.

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## ATO valuation blocks CGT small business concessions

A taxpayer has been unsuccessful before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in a case concerning a property sold in 2005 and a claim for the small business capital gains tax (CGT) concessions. The Tribunal held the taxpayer was not eligible for the concessions as it failed the (then) \$5 million "maximum net asset value" test. The matter turned on the valuations relied upon by the taxpayer and the Commissioner in valuing the property. The Tribunal preferred the Commissioner's valuations despite having concerns with various aspects, including assumptions made.

**TIP:** Small businesses can access a range of tax concessions to reduce CGT on the sale of certain assets if certain conditions are met. One of the conditions is that the taxpayer must satisfy the "maximum net asset value" test. To pass the test, the net value of all the CGT assets of taxpayer (including affiliates and connected entities) must not exceed \$6 million (previously \$5 million). The rules can be complex, so please contact our office for more information.

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## GST treatment of new residential premises

The Government has recently introduced legislative amendments into Parliament which aim to clarify the GST treatment of new residential premises. Broadly, the proposed amendments to the GST law aim to ensure that sales or long-term leases of new residential premises by a registered entity are "taxable supplies", and that sales or long-term leases of other residential premises are "input taxed supplies". The amendments follow a court decision which had held that a developer's sales of newly constructed residential premises (constructed under a "development lease" arrangement) were input taxed supplies under the GST law. The Government said the outcome of the case was contrary to the policy intent of the GST legislation.

**TIP:** The ATO has identified common GST errors concerning property transactions. Mistakes can often be made in working out when new residential premises are actually "new" and therefore taxable. Please contact our office if you have any questions.

**Important:** Clients should not act solely on the basis of the material contained in Client Alert. Items herein are general comments only and do not constitute or convey advice per se. Also changes in legislation may occur quickly. We therefore recommend that our formal advice be sought before acting in any of the areas. Client Alert is issued as a helpful guide to clients and for their private information. Therefore it should be regarded as confidential and not be made available to any person without our prior approval.

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## Investment Opportunity

Our financial planning division has sourced what they believe to be an outstanding investment opportunity which you may wish to consider.

UBS Goals + Series 3 is a structured investment that provides a high level of income (in excess of 11% p.a at today's share prices), and also a significant amount of capital protection. The main features of the investment are outlined as follows:

- Investment is in a Deferred Purchase Agreement over a basket of 4 bank stocks (ANZ, CBA, NAB, WBC)
- Income payments are guaranteed and paid at the rate of 10.70 cents per unit. At today's buy price of around \$0.94, this equates to an annualised yield of 11.38%.
- Income payments are made monthly, thus assisting superannuation funds meet monthly pension requirements
- Capital is substantially protected through the capital protection mechanism. Investors will see 100% of their capital returned at maturity (12 June 2014), unless one of the component shares falls in value by more than 30% of its original price as at the maturity date. This is referred to as a "kick in" event. If a kick in event occurs, investors would receive the performance of the worst performing share in the basket. The component shares may fall through the 70% barrier during the investment and this will have no impact on income payments, or the capital value at maturity.
- Minimum investment is \$10,000

Please contact Bob Kolevski of our financial planning division on 02 9959 3611 to discuss the appropriateness of this investment for your portfolio.

Bob Kolevski is a Sub-Authorised Representative of BDJ Financial Services, a Corporate Authorised Representative of Professional Investment Services Pty Ltd, AFSL Licence 234951



**We would like to remind clients that we are able to provide competitive residential mortgages via our alliance with Mortgageport.**

**Our firm works with Mortgageport in providing fully featured mortgage products, that are structured to reduce the after tax cost of debt. We are in many cases able to process your application from our office ensuring quick responses to all inquiries.**

**This service has been a great benefit to many of our clients already and we encourage all clients to call for more information.**