



# **Exposure Draft** **- Draft Information Sheet**

## **Course in basic GST/BAS taxation principles that is approved by the Board**

### **Tax Practitioners Board Exposure Draft**

The Board released this draft information sheet as an exposure draft on 14 April 2010. The Board invited comments and submissions in relation to the information contained in it. The closing date for submissions was 18 June 2010. The Board have been considering the submissions made and intend to publish a final information sheet as soon as possible.

Further information may be obtained by emailing [tpbwebsite@ato.gov.au](mailto:tpbwebsite@ato.gov.au) or by writing to the following address:

Tax Practitioners Board  
PO Box 9825, PENRITH NSW 2740

### **DISCLAIMER**

**Please note that this document is in draft form, and when finalised, will be intended as information only. While it seeks to provide practical assistance and explanation, it does not exhaust, prescribe or limit the scope of the Board's powers provided in the *Tax Agent Services Act 2009*.**

Additionally, please note that the principles, explanations and examples in this paper do not constitute legal advice. They are also at a preliminary stage only. The Tax Practitioners Board's conclusions and views may change as a result of the comments the Board receives or as other circumstances change.

### **Document History**

This draft information sheet was first issued on 14 April 2010 and is based on the *Tax Agent Services Act 2009*, the *Tax Agent Services Regulations 2009* and the *Tax Agent Services (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Act 2009* as at 1 March 2010.

Paragraphs 9 and 10 were included and paragraphs 3 and 12 were amended in this latest version on 2 September 2010. The purpose of these revisions is to:

- (a) clarify the Board's approach to the acceptability of recognition of prior learning (RPL) and related topics. RPL can sometimes be used as a means of undertaking in a course in basic GST/BAS taxation principles and other courses; and
- (b) clarify the course specification of Certificate IV Financial Services (Accounting).

# Information regarding ‘a course in basic GST/BAS taxation principles that is approved by the Board’

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This draft information sheet sets out the preliminary views of the Tax Practitioners Board (Board) in relation to the meaning of ‘a course in basic GST/BAS taxation principles that is approved by the Board’ for the purpose of Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the *Tax Agent Services Regulations 2009* (Regulations).

In particular, this draft information sheet outlines the Board’s **interim approach** regarding the requirements for ‘a course in basic GST/BAS taxation principles that is approved by the Board’.

The purpose of this information is to assist relevant institutions, professional associations, potential registrants and the wider community to understand the factors that provide the basis for the Board’s interim approach to the educational eligibility requirements for registration as a BAS agent.

All preliminary views expressed in this draft information sheet are subject to ongoing consultation by the Board with relevant stakeholders. The Board intends to adopt these preliminary views until they are finalised.

The Board will publish a separate information sheet outlining its general approach regarding the approval of courses for the purpose of Schedule 2 to the Regulations.

## **Course in basic GST/BAS taxation principles – Interim approach**

1. Applicants seeking registration as a BAS agent under the *Tax Agent Services Act 2009* are required, under the Regulations, to have successfully completed a course in basic GST/BAS taxation principles that is approved by the Board.
2. Applicants are also required to have been awarded at least a Certificate IV Financial Services (Bookkeeping) or a Certificate IV Financial Services (Accounting) from a registered training organisation or an equivalent institution.
3. The Board recognises that the Certificate IV Financial Services (Bookkeeping) currently includes a BAS unit and, subject to the selection of the unit of the Certificate IV Financial Services (Accounting) courses may include a BAS unit. The Board notes that the Certificate IV Financial Services (Accounting) may in future include a BAS unit.

4. The Board has held a number of consultations with various stakeholders regarding the appropriate requirements for a course in basic GST/BAS taxation principles that is approved by the Board.
5. At this time, the Board is of the preliminary view that, as an interim measure, **until 29 February 2012**, the BAS unit "Carry out Business Activity and Instalment Activity Statements tasks" in the Certificate IV Financial Services (Bookkeeping) and Certificate IV Financial Services (Accounting) courses is an approved course in basic GST/BAS taxation principles.
6. The interim measure is for a transitional period of two years commencing on 1 March 2010. At the end of the transitional period, the Board expects to have a more comprehensive set of requirements which will underlie the Board's longer term approach in relation to a course in basic GST/BAS taxation principles that is approved by the Board.
7. The Board is of the preliminary view that applicants who gain registration during the transitional period (that is, between 1 March 2010 and 29 February 2012) will need to complete any additional courses that may be necessary to satisfy the longer term requirements in relation to a course in basic GST/BAS taxation principles that is approved by the Board.
8. The Board is engaged in ongoing consultation with relevant stakeholders regarding its longer term approach in relation to a course in basic GST/BAS taxation principles that is approved by the Board. The Board will provide further information as it becomes available.
9. In approving a course in basic GST/BAS taxation principles which is part of a Certificate IV Financial Services (Bookkeeping) or Certificate IV Financial Services (Accounting) or higher award or a separate GST/BAS taxation principles course, the Board, in respect of applications for registration made from 1 October 2010, will not approve that course where the assessment of the course has been effected solely through recognition of prior learning (RPL) without some form of independent formal assessment and testing having been conducted.
10. The Board requires the assessment and testing to be completed under some form of independent supervision. The assessment must test the elements of the unit and the learning outcomes achieved to establish that these are comparable to the elements of the course and learning outcomes undertaken by students who are seeking approval based upon means of assessment other than RPL. A sit down challenge test conducted under supervision, in which an applicant for registration is independently tested about their knowledge of GST/BAS taxation principles and about how to apply these in practice could be one way to meet this requirement. Another could be a formal examination and formal assessment (although 'take home' exams would not be accepted).

## **Will the Board accept other courses as an approved course in basic GST/BAS taxation principles?**

11. Yes, the Board may accept other courses as an approved course in basic GST/BAS taxation principles for the purpose of Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Regulations.
12. The information above outlines the Board's interim approach regarding the requirements for 'a course in basic GST/BAS taxation principles that is approved by the Board'. This information does not preclude other courses from meeting the requirements for an approved course in basic GST/BAS taxation principles.
13. If you have successfully completed another course which you believe should be accepted as, or taken to be, an approved course in basic GST/BAS taxation principles, a submission should be included with your application for registration. The Board will consider such submissions on their merits. In approving that course, the Board will require that the assessment of the GST/BAS component must have included some form of formal assessment.