

Quick Bits

Stay Smart Online and Superstream – ready?

Stay Smart Online

This week, **October 12-16**, is **Stay Smart Online (SSO) week**, an Australian Government initiative to encourage more secure and confident online interaction.

Being aware of various tools and practices to better protect your personal and financial information online and on mobile is now more important than ever and at this time of year, the scammers are aggressively utilising scams presenting as ATO correspondence via email and ATO representatives via phone. Please be VERY cautious.

Westpac - a long-time supporter of this initiative – has developed this list of things to be mindful of to improve online security at home and at work:

- **Passwords** - Keep your passwords secure. Never share them with anyone and ensure that they cannot be easily guessed.
- **Software** - Install security software on your computer and mobile devices (phone, tablets etc), set it to scan regularly and ensure it is kept up to date.
- **Phone calls** - Be wary of calls you are not expecting, requesting personal information, or access to your computer. If in doubt, ask for a reference number and call the company from a number in a public phone directory to ensure it is genuine.
- **Social networking** - think before you post photos, financial or personal information about yourself, your friends or family online. And regularly adjust privacy settings.
- **Buying online** - take care when transacting online - research the supplier and use a safe payment method.
- **Email** - carefully assess before clicking links and attachments, particularly from unknown senders and keep up to date with the latest information on scams.
- **Mobile** - protecting your mobile from viruses, malware, and Internet fraud is just as important as protecting your home computer.
- **Check and report** - Check bank statements and account records carefully to detect anything unusual. If you see something suspicious and/or you do not recognise a transaction, contact the Bank
- **Share the knowledge** - Talk with your family and encourage them to report anything that makes them uncomfortable.
- **Register** for Stay Smart Online Alert Service for regular updates on the latest threats. You can also report any new threats you encounter directly to Stay Smart Online.

For more information on being smart online, visit:

- Stay Smart Online website – where you can sign up for alerts
- Scamwatch website – which is run by the ACCC and provides information to consumers and small business about how to recognise, avoid and report scams
- ATO website – for information on how to deal with an ATO related scam.
- As part of the “Week” SSO have released a Guide for Small Business.

Find out more about SSO week at <https://www.communications.gov.au/departmental-news/launch-stay-smart-online-week-2015>

SuperStream – Ready?

Remember: *Employers must now make super contributions on behalf of their employees by submitting data and payments electronically in accordance with the SuperStream Standard.*

The Commissioner of Taxation recently announced that large and medium employers have until 31 October 2015 to be fully SuperStream compliant. If a business has 19 or fewer employees, SuperStream has applied from 1 July 2015 – however the ATO will be flexible provided you have a plan in place by 30 June 2016.

From 1 November the ATO will be increasing their focus on employers and SMSFs that have been identified as not complying with their SuperStream obligations and applying administrative penalties set out within the *Superannuation (Industry) Supervision Act*.

The Penalty imposed could be up to ten penalty units (1 Penalty unit = \$180).

The modern, online (cloud based) software packages offered by MYOB ([click here](#) for booklet), Xero and Intuit (QuickbooksOnline) all offer “Pay Super” features which are SuperStream compliant – and which make payments easier and faster.

SuperStream is here and the time for action is now.

If you have any queries about SuperStream or the benefits of moving to an online accounting software package, please contact us.

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