

**Newsletter, December 2023**

**Practice Update**

Finally a year without any covid impact! Prior year lodgements are up to date so ATO extensions can now be something that we can forget exist. We no longer have to keep trying to catch-up on prior year tax returns, we can focus solely on current year tax returns and ensure that they're all done by May next year. I've even re-booked our family holiday to New Zealand that was delayed during to covid (it's not until next October though).



We would like to thank everyone for both their support and patience through the covid years. I started working as an accountant when GST started in 2000, I've worked through covid and hopefully I'll be retired before the next major industry disrupter (except for AI, I love technology and want to see that grow so I can utilise it). We would also like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year and we hope that everyone gets a break to spend more time with their families.

**Christmas gifts/bonuses and Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT)**

There is a minor benefits FBT exemption which means that, in most cases, employers can spend less than \$300 per employee without FBT being applicable. This threshold relates to each benefit provided, not to the total value of all associated benefits provided to employees and their families.

The exemption applies to benefits that are provided infrequently and irregularly so a gift card under this amount could be:

- claimed as a tax deduction;
- exempt from FBT; and
- not assessable to the recipient.

Christmas bonuses paid to employees should be processed through payroll where PAYG withholding and superannuation apply.

**Lodgement Dates**

The end of the December quarter may easily be forgotten over the Christmas period so you should be aware of the following dates:

- 28 January 2024      December quarter superannuation payment due
- 28 February 2024      December quarter BAS due

Did you know that if your Tax Agent lodges your quarterly BAS electronically, you get a four week electronic lodgement and payment concession? This isn't available for the December BAS as the normal due date is extended by four weeks after the Christmas period for everyone.

Kind regards,  
Nick

