



MEDIA RELEASE

AFMA Spreads the Word on Reducing Offshore Tax Risks

Thursday 18 March 2010

The Australian Taxation Office's Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Initiative (the Initiative) offers reduced tax penalties to taxpayers with undisclosed income from offshore bank accounts who contact the Tax Office before they are the subject of an audit and who make a full and true disclosure prior to 30 June 2010.

The Australian Financial Markets Association (AFMA) has worked cooperatively with the ATO over the last 6 months as part of our regular liaison process to ensure communication of the OVDI to bank clients is done in the most efficient and effective manner. This has helped to raise the profile of the updated Initiative within the industry.

As part of its liaison with the ATO, AFMA has also provided practical assistance by developing a pro-forma letter that provides a common template for banks who wish to communicate with their clients in respect of the updated Initiative.

The assistance provided to the ATO by AFMA and its member banks in raising the profile of the Initiative with taxpayers is provided on a voluntary basis.

Notes for Editors:

The Australian Financial Markets Association (AFMA) is the peak industry association for Australia's wholesale banking and financial markets. These markets play a pivotal role in the Australian economy by making it possible for Australian financial institutions and companies to conduct business with each other and with their counterparts overseas.

AFMA represents industry participants in the financial markets, including Australian and foreign banks, leading brokers, state government treasury corporations, fund managers, traders in electricity and other specialised markets and industry service providers.

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