

Update October 2012

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From Sams Desk



Directors Now Liable For More Taxation Debts

For lots of arts organisations, end of financial year signals a financial and organisational review. In the past, Directors have generally only been liable for unpaid PAYG withholding tax, that is, tax withheld from employees wages. If the company could not pay it, then the Directors themselves could become liable for this.

This "Directors Liability Position" has now been expanded to include unpaid employee superannuation contributions.

As of now, if "Employee Superannuation" and "PAYG Withholding Tax" remains unreported and unpaid for more than 3 months after the due date, then the Director is automatically liable for this amount. The ATO will then issue what is known as a "Director Penalty Notice (DPN)".

Therefore, if the business is in financial trouble and may never be in a position to pay these liabilities and you may be considering forms of Liquidation or Voluntary Administration, then you should consider this prior to the ATO issuing the DPN. The ATO can issue a DPN at any time after the due date, but if the liability has not been reported and paid 3 months after the due date, then the director will not be able to avoid personal liability by placing the company in external administration. It is therefore very important that Activity Statement lodgements are kept up to date, even if you can't pay the debt owing.

This new legislation is something all Directors should be aware of as they will be liable even if they do not manage the day to day financial operations of the company. They may still find themselves liable if the company falls behind on its taxation responsibilities. Advice from Marsh Tincknell Chartered Accountants Firm which is at the forefront of leading, guiding and consulting to progressive business owners. Established in Brisbane for over 20 years, Marsh Tincknell has 6 Directors and over 40 employees across 2 office locations.

QPAC Cracks Magic Million Mark

The Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) is celebrating a major milestone – more than a million people attended the venue in 2011-2012.

Arts Minister Ros Bates announced the milestone on August 14 on the 12th anniversary of the opening of QPAC's Playhouse Theatre in 1998. Ms Bates said

QPAC sold 1,016,991 tickets for the year - an increase of 19 percent on the previous year.

"Queenslanders and visitors to Brisbane embraced the diverse range of quality live performances at QPAC, including popular musical theatre, drama, opera, music and dance together with frequent performances by nationally and internationally acclaimed artists," Ms Bates said.

"To crack the one million mark is a solid contribution to the long term sustainability of Queensland's performing arts industry and helps grow Brisbane's reputation as a destination where locals and visitors alike can have innovative and exciting cultural experiences."

Ms Bates said when free events were included it bumped QPAC attendance figures for the financial year 2011-2012 up to 1,053,178.

"A total of 1427 performances took place at QPAC in this period. Highlights included *Mary Poppins* and *Annie*, the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, an Opera Australia season and QPAC's *Out of The Box Festival for Children*.

"I am pleased to say 2012-2013 is also shaping up well and *Jersey Boys - The Story of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons* is a smash hit, while coming attractions include *A Chorus Line*, *Driving Miss Daisy* and The Queensland Ballet's *Sleeping Beauty*, presented with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

QTA Finalists Announced

Congratulations to the 11 employers, apprentices, teachers, trainers, trainees and vocational students announced as [state winners](#) in the 2012 Queensland Training Awards. The [state winners](#) were chosen from over 580 nominations statewide and were announced at the state final presentation dinner at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on Friday, 14 September 2012.

Each state award winner may have the opportunity to be considered for the [Australian Training Awards](#) held in Melbourne on Friday, 16 November 2012.

PIAA takes hold of training

Printing Industries will establish a new nationwide registered training organisation (RTO) for the printing industry, with Joan Grace, currently CEO of Print NZ, appointed as head of the organisation.

Printing Industries is fast-tracking the RTO establishment. Bill Healey, CEO, Printing Industries says Printing Industries are in the final stages of negotiations to purchase an existing organisation allowing them to fast-track the project. He says, "It is about the printing industry taking control of its own future. This isn't a Printing Industries story, it is a print industry story. We have been in consultations with GAMAA and the AMWU, and we all see the need to make this

move.

"The decision by RMIT to close its print school is a precursor to what will be happening around the country, and third party training organisations will just cherry pick, whereas we will service the needs of the whole industry."

Susan Heaney, president, Printing Industries says, "The board saw the move as essential for the provision of key skills in the industry and had also endorsed the appointment of a person of the highest calibre to manage its establishment. We cannot allow the future of printing industry training to remain in peril and subject to the changing policies of various governments."

New Zealand's Joan Grace has been appointed to head the RTO as general manager of education, employment and training. Grace is currently the chief executive of PrintNZ the peak industry association for the New Zealand printing industry. She is also chief executive of the Communications and Media Industry Training Organisation (CMITO).

Heaney says, "She revolutionised training for the New Zealand industry and created a model that is the envy of organisations locally and internationally."

She says "After the recent decision by RMIT in Victoria (to close and outsource its print training school) the industry wants certainty, vision, greater co-ordination and the ability to provide the kind of training required for its ongoing development. This is particularly the case in an increasingly multi-channel communication world where opportunities are being created but new skills demanded."

Healey says the appointment of Grace is a major coup for Australian industry training and for Printing Industries' current campaign to ensure Victorian and Tasmanian printing companies were not disadvantaged by the RMIT's decision to exit from print training.

He says, "Joan has accepted a contract with us and will be relocating to Victoria where she will be based in our Melbourne office. Her initial role will be to establish the national RTO on behalf of the printing industry, and to ensure that industry training in Victoria is maintained."

Grace will also manage the establishment of the Victorian operation and provide leadership in the development of a national training function as well as working with the broader industry to provide better co-ordination and consolidation of education and training issues. "This is a critical need of our Victorian and Tasmanian members who find themselves in a situation today that may possibly be repeated in other states across the country tomorrow. We are continuing to have discussions with the Victorian Government on achieving our objective to fill gaps in apprentice training brought about by RMITs departure from its printing industry training role."

Healey also says Grace has established relationships with a large number of key industry partners operating on both sides of the Tasman and an outstanding track record in industry training.

"This RTO project is one of the most important and far reaching decisions of Printing Industries in recent times and will help redefine our industry's future." Healey concluded.

Smart Classroom Awards

The Smart Classrooms Awards is an annual event aimed at recognising teachers and ICT support staff who use ICT to do outstanding work in Queensland schools.

In 2012 the Smart Classrooms Awards also celebrated the winners of the [Smart Classrooms Student Film Fest](#) - an annual event designed to put Queensland state school students' skills and knowledge of the latest digital technologies to the ultimate test.

All Smart Classrooms Award winners received a \$5000 grant, allowing them to extend their professional development by attending conferences or courses to extend their understanding and practices in ICT in education.

The Smart Classrooms Awards Ceremony took place on Thursday 30 August 2012 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

[A video of each winner and highly commended recipient](#) has been made available to provide insight into some of the leading digital practice currently occurring in Queensland classrooms.

Bundaberg Celebrates the Arts with Crush Festival

For the whole month of October, the Bundaberg region comes alive as it hosts Queensland's premier regional arts festival.

2012 saw the introduction of a theme for the festival, with Art In The Open shaping much of the program you are about to read.

This is a festival that presents something for everyone, showcasing a colourful mix of many different artistic fields with the vision of sharing the arts with everyone and opening many art forms to participation.

Handpicked and curated elements are courtesy of Creative Regions and the organisers hope you enjoy these professional development and arts opportunities brought into the region.

A huge proportion of the festival program is all home grown, with plenty of free events on offer and some from as little as a gold coin donation to attend.

There are elements which will be crowd pleasers, others which will challenge, excite, inspire and ignite but above all, bringing art into the open for new

audiences to enjoy.

You can easily identify the categories of events by using the colour coded key as shown here so you can quickly find what you are interested in. So get picking, timetabling and scheduling and be part of our celebration of regional arts.

You can access the Crush Festival program [here](#).

Opportunities and Courses

OPPORTUNITIES:

The Australia Council for the Arts has launched the **Creative Australia Artists Grants**, a five-year program of funding which will support artists, including young and emerging artists, across all art forms to deliver new artistic works, undertake fellowships and create additional presentations to Australian audiences. For more information visit www.australiacouncil.gov.au/creativeaustralia.

The Australian Government through the **Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport** is providing funding to help artists develop and tour across state and territory borders and help increase regional communities access to Australia's diverse arts and cultural material. Funding is now available through the following funding programs: [Playing Australia](#), [Contemporary Music Touring Program](#), [Visions of Australia](#), [Contemporary Touring Initiative](#). These programs provide touring support for almost every art medium by helping with the many challenges of travelling around our vast country, including transport, accommodation and insurance.

Creative Foyer is an online arts career meeting place providing free access to career development resources. Creative Foyer connects to first-hand experiences of arts industry leaders, the latest jobs, finding staff at short notice, and other opportunities. Access is free and open to all. Visit www.creativefoyer.com.au.

COURSES:

31 Oct: Connect with Business, \$187, full day AbaF workshop designed to improve the knowledge and capacity of arts managers to form strategic and long lasting partnerships with business. 111 Eagle Street, Brisbane. For more information and to register visit the [website](#).

8 Nov: Australia Cultural Fund Information Session, FREE, learn how AbaF's Australia Cultural Fund can assist with fundraising. Artists and small cultural organisations can register with AbaF to offer their donors the chance to make tax deductible donations. 60 Noosa Drive, Noosa Heads. For more information and to register visit the [website](#).

Events

12 Oct: OctoberVet, Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE, Mooloolababa Campus.

8.30 - 4.30. Free. Registrations can be made [online](#). For further information contact Tracey Singh by [email](#) or on 5457 1143.

Until 21 Oct: Connections: Queensland Regional Art Awards Touring Exhibition, State Library of QLD. Free. For more information visit the [website](#).

26 - 28 Oct: Events Queensland 4th Annual Regional Events Conference, Cairns Hilton Hotel. For more information visit the [website](#).

Until 4 Nov: Emerge: Combined High Schools exhibition, Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery. For more information visit the gallery [website](#).

12 - 16 November: Creative Southbank, Southbank Institute of Technology, South Brisbane. For more information visit the [website](#).

14 - 25 Nov: Brisbane International Film Festival, various locations. For more information visit the [website](#).

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