

OSR Connect

Issue 15

June 2008



In this issue of OSR Connect we look at payroll tax annual reconciliation, online learning for payroll tax, changes to counter services, new duties cheque acceptance policy, timetable for duties abolition and our upcoming free seminar program.



NSW payroll tax annual reconciliation available from 16 June

Payroll tax clients can complete and lodge their annual reconciliation online on or before 21 July 2008. [Read more.](#)



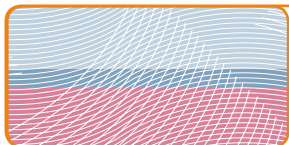
Online learning for payroll tax

We have recently launched the first module of a new payroll tax online learning course designed to assist payroll tax clients determine their payroll tax liability. [Read more.](#)



Changes to counter services

In order to provide a fairer and more efficient service to our clients, counter assessment services for urgent and priority stamping of duties transactions will now only be available for private individuals. [Read more.](#)



OSR cheque acceptance policy for duties transactions

OSR has a new cheque acceptance policy for duties. [Read more.](#)



Timetable for the abolition of duties

The timetable provides a list of duties that will be abolished. [Read more.](#)



Free seminar program

You are invited to attend free State tax update and payroll tax seminars addressing issues arising from the State Budget. [Read more and register online.](#)



Keep up-to-date with OSR

Subscribe to our free Online Subscription Service (OSS) and we'll send you an email update to let you know of OSR website changes and when a new issue of OSR Connect is available. You can unsubscribe or change your preferences at any time.

Contact us

Your comments and feedback about OSR Connect and the OSR website are always welcome.

Email us at: communications@osr.nsw.gov.au



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Payroll tax 2008 annual reconciliation available from 16 June

Payroll tax clients need to complete and lodge their annual reconciliation online on or before 21 July 2008. The annual reconciliation application includes an online payment facility. If you are registered to pay online you can now schedule a future dated payment once you have calculated your tax due.

Payroll tax clients who use the payment booklets should note that the booklets were posted the week commencing 16 June 2008. Clients who choose to pay online or via EFT and BPAY should have received instructions in the mail on how to complete and lodge the 2008 annual reconciliation and make monthly payments for 2008-09.

Our payroll tax monthly calculator will be available to clients on Monday, 28 July 2008.

Read: [Payroll tax](#)

Phone: 1300 139 815



Payroll tax online learning

We have recently launched the first module of a new payroll tax online learning course designed to assist payroll tax clients determine their payroll tax liability. The course will eventually contain the following modules which clients can access through the payroll tax section of OSR's website:

- determination of liability
- wages
- threshold
- grouping
- contractors
- employment agents
- registration
- logging in
- online payment.

The wages module is available now, the other modules will be progressively released.

Each module contains:

- links to OSR website where you can read more information
- a tutorial explaining the main concepts
- exercises demonstrating how to perform tasks
- activities allowing you to practice those tasks
- a section that allows you to test your understanding of concepts.

Read: [Payroll tax](#)

Phone: 1300 139 815



Changes to counter services

Changes to counter services for urgent and priority stamping of duties transactions in our Newcastle and Wollongong offices came into effect from 5 May. Counter assessment services are now only available for private individuals.

All other duties matters presented at these offices will be treated on a non-urgent basis and will be processed in date order along with other matters received through the mail and by DX.

These changes were implemented:

- due to our commitment to increase Electronic Duties Returns (EDR) transactions
- as a result of the abolition of some types of duties
- to provide a fairer and more efficient service to all our clients
- to allow OSR to better use our staff

Prior to the changes being implemented extensive consultation with our key stakeholders, including local Law Society Presidents, the Conveyancing Council and local counter lodging firms in Newcastle and Wollongong was undertaken.

As a result of this consultation some 30 local firms made application to be approved to use our EDR online service. Once approved OSR officers visited each firm to provide EDR training for their staff. EDR clients also receive extensive telephone, email and facsimile support, as well as follow-up client education visits.

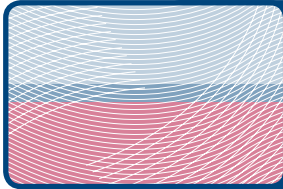
From 4 August, our Sydney and Parramatta offices will also change their counter services for duties lodgers.

Firms that are currently conducting duties transactions at our Sydney and Parramatta counters who would like to know more about EDR can contact OSR on 1300 308 863. Information about EDR and how to apply to use the service can be found on our website.

To ensure the EDR service is available to your firm prior to 4 August change, your EDR application must be received by OSR before 1 July 2008.

Read: [EDR](#)

Phone: 1300 308 863



OSR cheque acceptance policy for duties transactions

OSR has introduced a new acceptable methods of payment of Duties and Electronic Duties transactions policy which came into effect from 14 April. The policy is summarised in the table:

For amounts up to \$50	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">cashmoney ordersall cheques	\$50
For amounts between \$50 and \$5000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">cashmoney ordersbuilding society chequescredit union chequesbank chequesgovernment instrumentalities, authorities or agency chequeslocal government chequesclearly marked trust or general account cheques drawn on the account of solicitors, accountants, real estate agents, licensed conveyancers, and law stationers.	\$5000
For amounts over \$5000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">cashmoney ordersbuilding society chequescredit union chequesbank chequesgovernment instrumentalities, authorities or agency chequeslocal government chequesclearly marked trust account cheques drawn on the account of solicitors, accountants, real estate agents and licensed conveyancers.	\$5000+

OSR will not process payments that are outside of this policy. Payments outside this policy and any associated duties documents and /or correspondence will be returned to the lodging party.

Read: [Duties](#)

Phone: 1300 139 814



Timetable of abolition of duties

The NSW Government has announced the abolition of several duties. The timetable below details the abolition date for each duty.

Duty	Changes for	Abolition date
Leases	Duty has been abolished on leases first executed on or after 1 January 2008, unless a premium is payable.	01 Jan 2008
Mortgage	Mortgage duty will not be chargeable if the mortgage secures an advance or advances made for the purpose of investment housing and no other advances. Borrowers must be natural persons.	01 July 2008
Mortgage	Mortgage duty will be abolished. No duty will be payable on any advances made on or after 1 July 2009.	01 July 2009
Unlisted marketable securities	Duty on the transfer of shares in a NSW company or units in a unit trust scheme (registered in NSW) not quoted on the Australian or a recognised stock exchange will be abolished on 1 January 2009.	01 Jan 2009
Business assets other than land	Duty on the transfer of business assets (other than land), statutory licences or permissions and poker machine entitlements will be abolished on 1 Jan 2011.	01 Jan 2011

Read: [Duties](#)

Phone: 1300 139 817



Free seminar program

You can attend one of our free seminars to find out more about State taxes and issues arising from the State Budget.

Our series of State tax update seminars are designed for professional advisers and cover recent cases, amendments and issues relating to land tax, duties, payroll tax and the First Home Benefits schemes.

Our payroll tax seminars are designed for businesses with an emphasis on recent changes and practical issues.

For more information, or to register online for one of the seminars visit our website: www.osr.nsw.gov.au and go to the '[free seminar](#)' link.

Phone: (02) 9689 6138



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Email: Communications@osr.nsw.gov.au

Phone: (02) 9689 6477