



Genesis Accounting
Chartered Accountants

Local Government Tax Webinar Series

For non-finance and finance staff

November 2021



Introduction

Genesis Accounting is a boutique firm of Chartered Accountants that provides GST, FBT and Payroll Tax consulting services to local government.

Over the last 21 years, we have provided services to over 320 councils across all states of Australia. The firm's principal, Pat McCarthy, is often called upon to be a keynote speaker at annual Finance Professional conferences and the firm has been a co-sponsor of these conferences for many years.

The firm has prepared hundreds of ATO rulings for councils including nine Class Rulings and conducted more than 200 training sessions for council staff.

Developed Just For Councils!

At last - in response to council requests we have further developed a comprehensive series of webinars designed for both non-finance and finance staff.

Who should attend

All staff involved in financial transactions, pricing decisions, buy/sell negotiations need to be aware of how taxes impact decision making. Awareness helps prevent financial loss. In particular, staff in the following roles would benefit from attending one or more of these webinars:

- ✓ Management Accounting
- ✓ Financial Accounting
- ✓ Fees and Charges
- ✓ FBT
- ✓ Accounts Payable
- ✓ Property Acquisition, Sales & Leasing

- ✓ Compulsory Acquisitions
- ✓ Grants and Appropriations
- ✓ HR, Payroll and Salary Packaging
- ✓ Aged Care
- ✓ Community Affairs
- ✓ Payroll Tax

Pricing

The full webinar package including course materials and video* of each webinar is \$3,950 +GST per council for 21 webinars or \$2,350 plus GST for 11 webinars. There is a 10% discount for our GST AddIn clients.

Great value for our AddIn clients at only \$169 +GST per webinar for the full package. By not having a cap on attendee numbers, staff from the finance team and the functional areas of council can all attend each webinar. This allows for good interaction and team-building between finance and nonfinance staff.

*Webinar recordings are available for unlimited viewing by council staff for up to 6 months after each webinar.



Registration

To register to attend go to the webinars tab at genesisaccounting.com.au.

Timetable

2021/2022 Webinar Series

All times are Sydney time

	Topic	Date	Times	Hrs
1	GST basics and refresher	Tue 9 Nov 2021	9:30 to 12:30	3.0
2	GST basics and refresher (repeat session)	Thu 11 Nov 2021	9:30 to 12:30	3.0
3	GST for Accounts Payable staff, councillor fees	Tue 16 Nov 2021	9:30 to 12:30	3.0
4	GST for Accounts Payable staff, councillor fees (repeat session)	Thu 18 Nov 2021	9:30 to 12:30	3.0
5	GST on Grants & Appropriations	Tue 30 Nov 2021	9:30 to 12:00	2.5
6	GST and fees and charges	Wed 1 Dec 2021	9:30 to 12:30	3.0
7	GST and fees and charges (repeat session)	Thu 2 Dec 2021	9:30 to 12:30	3.0
8	GST and Property Part 1	Tue 7 Dec 2021	9:30 to 12:30	3.0
9	GST and Aged Care	Wed 8 Dec 2021	9:30 to 11:30	2.0
10	GST and Property Part 2	Thu 9 Dec 2021	9:30 to 12:30	3.0
11	GST on compulsory acquisitions and easements	Tue 14 Dec 2021	9:30 to 11:00	1.5
12	GST Free swimming lessons	Tue 8 Feb 2022	9:30 to 11:00	1.5
13	GST and cemetery fees	Thu 10 Feb 2022	9:30 to 11:00	1.5
14	GST and Fund Raising Events	Tue 15 Feb 2022	9:30 to 11:00	1.5
15	Labour - PAYG, GST, Workers Comp, Payroll Tax & Contractors	Thu 17 Feb 2022	9:30 to 11:30	2.0
16	Payroll Tax	Tue 22 Feb 2022	9:30 to 12:00	2.5
17	Fuel Tax Credits	Thu 24 Feb 2022	9:30 to 11:30	2.0
18	FBT Intro	Tue 1 Mar 2022	9:30 to 12:30	3.0
19	FBT on vehicles, Associate Leases, Entertainment & Vouchers	Thu 3 Mar 2022	9:30 to 12:30	3.0
20	FBT and car parking	Tue 8 Mar 2022	9:30 to 11:00	1.5
21	FBT and remote housing	Tue 15 Mar 2022	9:30 to 11:00	1.5
22	FBT travel, LAFHA, relocations	Tue 22 Mar 2022	9:30 to 11:00	1.5
23	Salary Packaging Workshop	Thu 24 Mar 2022	9:30 to 11:00	1.5
24	GST Q&A	Tue 5 Apr 2022	9:30 to 12:00	2.5

Webinar content

The content has been selected to cover the important topics that are most often the ones we advise council clients about. Each session includes comprehensive course materials.

GST basics and refresher

This webinar will cover a wide range of topics applicable to the Local Government at an introductory level. Accordingly, it will be suitable for those new to Local Government and also those looking for a broad brushed refresher. Some of the topics covered will include property, fees & charges, grants, creditors, contractors, tax invoices, insurance, donations, salary packaging basics, property sales for overdue rates, compulsory acquisitions, planning agreements, and community affairs.

GST for Accounts Payable staff

This webinar is a timely refresher for those who have been in Accounts Payable for some time and also a good training ground for new Accounts Payable officers.

GST on Grants & Appropriations

This webinar will delve into the detail of grants and appropriations, particularly those that are received from government departments. Downstream grants to community organisations will also be covered including the rules of when to mark up for GST. Councils often make mistakes with the documentation around downstream grants, this webinar will outline the principles you must follow in the brochure, advertising material, funding agreement and acquittal form.

We will cover the concept of whose objectives are being satisfied, council's, the grantee or the government department. Confusion reigns around grants for relief – bushfire, drought, Covid etc.

GST & fees, charges & rates

Learn the principles governing the taxation of council's fees and charges from the ATO rulings obtained by us for more than 250 councils across Australia. Delve into the nuances of Division 81, Regulation 81 and the various Division 38 GST Free fees.

GST & Property

Most queries we receive are about GST and property transactions where the risk of financial loss to the council is the greatest. The 2 part webinar will include:

Part 1

- Basic property GST concepts
- Standard Land Contract
- Taxable, GST Free and input taxed sales
- Margin scheme, when it can be used, advantages, calculations, valuations.
- Unimproved land, tax concessions available
- Valuers and improvements
- Land swaps
- Overpaid GST
- ATO refunds
- Buy sell negotiations
- Auction sales

Part 2

- Donations of property
- Compulsory acquisitions
- Litigation settlements involving property
- Sales for unpaid rates
- Forfeited deposits
- Cancellation fees
- Settlement adjustments
- Developer contributions
- Planning agreements
- Residential Withholding provisions
- Foreign Resident Capital Gains Withholding provisions
- Short and long term leases

GST & Aged Care

The rules around when client contributions are GST free is complex. This webinar covers a wide range of aged care topics and funding mechanisms such as HCP, CHSP and state HACC programs. NDIS is also covered and you will learn the principles around when and why income streams are GST free. Learn the special rules around brokerage..

GST on compulsory acquisitions & easements

Find out how GST applies when council acquires property or has its property acquired.

Easements present unique problems for GST, we explain how the payments to or from council for the grant or release of easements are taxed.

GST Free swimming lessons

Learn which lessons are GST Free and which are taxable. What are aquatic survival skills and at what point do lessons stop being survival skills.

GST and cemetery fees

The ATO's draft determination has caused great concern amongst councils. The potential administration burden for councils could be enormous. How to deal with deceased estates, beneficiaries and who is expected to refund the customer when a funeral director buys interment rights. Refunds are potentially on sales back to May 2014.

GST and Fund Raising Events

Councils conduct fund raising activities, the income from these is sometimes taxable and sometimes input taxed with consequent denial of input tax credits. Learn which events are taxable and which are not.

Labour – PAYG, GST + others

Labour is taxed in various ways depending on how the labour is defined in different legislation. We examine the differing tax treatments for PAYG, GST, Workers Comp and Payroll Tax, and contractors and provide practical examples and tests.

Payroll Tax

Wages for council's activities in water, sewer and cemeteries are not exempt from payroll tax. Discover how the tax is calculated, what wages and other payments such as super and FBT are taken into account and also the allocation of indirect overheads. Did you know that contractor payments are included unless they fall into one of the exempt categories?

Fuel Tax Credits

The FTC regime is quite tricky. Learn when credits can be claimed, what is the relevance of the 4.5 tonne weight threshold. Councils often miss claims for ancillary equipment, incorrectly calculate claims for waste vehicles and are confused by on road and off road activities.. Opportunities abound for refund claims from the ATO for overpaid FTC.

FBT Intro

Fringe Benefits Tax is the annual nightmare that councils endure between April and late May every year. This session covers the basic principles, different benefits types, taxable value, exemptions including minor benefits and reductions in value. We cover all the declarations required, policies, proper record keeping, work papers and reportable benefits. Specific topics include education expenses and the new re training exemptions.



FBT on vehicles, Associate Leases, Entertainment & Vouchers

Cars always seem to present problems to councils, let us simplify it. We cover dual cabs, utes, log books, car-pooling/ sharing, policies and cover all the exemptions and reductions. Associate leases are accepted by the ATO, let us explain how they work. We clarify when entertainment occurs, council meetings, Christmas parties, the different types and the result. Face value and other types of vouchers are explained as well as the effect of voucher redemption.

FBT and car parking

The new ATO car parking ruling is going to result in substantial FBT costs for some councils. There are new tests and thresholds. We will examine all the rules, how to quantify value and how to reduce the FBT liability.

FBT and remote housing

Explore the type of housing benefits council can provide at 50% FBT discount or entirely FBT exempt, and the conditions attached. What discounts are available for reimbursing utility bills.

FBT travel, LAFHA, relocations

Two new ATO rulings have changed the playing field for working out when staff are travelling versus when their workplace is at a new location. New tests and practical compliance guidelines are necessary to understand when staff leave the workplace involving overnight stays.

Salary Packaging Workshop

This course teaches the principle of salary packaging including pre and post tax contributions. Worked examples show how savings can be made by packaging cars, exempt and otherwise deductible benefits. New rules about superannuation contributions are covered as well as packaging the misunderstood associate leases provisions.

GST Q&A

This is your turn to choose the topics. Send in your questions and topic requests and these will be covered in the webinar.



Testimonials

"Each of my staff have raved about how informative and useful they are finding the webinars. Definitely have a very inspired Finance team."

- *Natalie*

"Great presentations, I've been doing FBT courses for a while now, and the information you have supplied over the last two webinars has been better explained and better delivered than any others I have used."

- *Paul*

"Just wanted to say myself and another staff member enjoyed yesterday's FBT presentation, great job by you."

- *Sherrill*

"Such a great initiative – we're really enjoying it!"

Ellie

"First I must say that your sessions have been excellent with our team enjoying them and deriving some very useful tips and information."

- *Stuart*

"Thanks to our attendance at the last property webinar you ran council saved over \$145,000 of GST on the sale of a property – great return on our webinar investment!"

- *Finance team at a regional council*



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