

# The Charter

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## AUSkey to Retire: Are you ready?

The decade old AUSkey and Manage ABN Connections services are set to be retired by the Australia Tax Office (ATO).

The ATO have announced that it and 26 other government agencies will retire the AUSkey and Manage ABN Connections portals on 27 March this year, meaning that anyone who uses the ATO's Business Portal to, for example, lodge a Business Activity Statement (BAS), will need to setup and use myGovID.

Beware! myGovID is not to be confused with myGov. myGov is a secure way for individuals to access online Government services whereas myGovID is for businesses.

The myGovID app is available to download to a smart device, using security features in the device such as fingerprint and face recognition or password access to help keep information secure, protect a user's identity and help stop other people accessing their information.

"Once the app is set up, the business owner will need to link their myGovID to their business using the authorisation service called Relationship Authorisation Manager (RAM) and authorise employee access," the ATO notes.

The ATO are "encouraging ATO Business Portal users to make the move from AUSkey to myGovID now before AUSkey retires. Don't leave it to the last minute, get set up today. Download the myGovID app and link it to a business using RAM".

The expiry date for AUSkey is fixed and won't be extended, so you need to implement these changes now.

If you need assistance with getting your business set up and ready to use myGovID before AUSkey is retired on 27 March, please contact Charters.

## Tax Resident ... but I live overseas!



Australian residents are normally taxed on their worldwide income with credits available for some overseas taxes paid on any foreign income.

An individual's residency status for Australian tax purposes is a question of fact, it is not a choice. The ATO considers a number of factors when addressing this question with a recent case providing some further guidance.

One of the tests used to decide the tax residency of an individual is where they have established their permanent place of abode.

In determining whether the Commissioner is satisfied that a person's permanent place of abode is outside Australia, consideration will be given to whether the person has:

- definitely abandoned residence in Australia, and
- commenced living permanently in a specific country overseas,

taking into account the facts and circumstances surrounding the person's departure from Australia, their arrangements in relation to the overseas country and nature of their presence there.

In a recent case, an Australian permanent resident who had been working overseas, predominantly in Thailand, for 11 years was found to have remained an Australian resident for tax purposes.

For 8 years from 2006 - 2014 the Taxpayer:

- was granted successive Thai work visas allowing him to work and live in Thailand;
- opened a bank account in Thailand into which his salary was paid;
- occupied a succession of rented apartments or cottage accommodation, which he furnished to his taste as well as to accommodate his partner and their two sons when they visited;
- lodged tax returns with the Thailand revenue department;
- joined and actively patronised golf, rugby and cricket clubs;
- formed enduring friendships.

Subsequently, the Taxpayer spent three years living and working in Tanzania and Dubai.

A number of factors led to the conclusion that he remained an Australian resident for tax purposes including:

- his family remaining in Australia,
- the acquisition of land with the intention of building a family home,
- maintaining bank accounts in Australia.

The Court concluded that when the Taxpayer returned to Australia at various times from Thailand, Tanzania and Dubai he was not returning as a visitor; he was returning as a husband and a father to resume living with his partner and children at the family home.

Statements made on incoming and outgoing passenger cards were also considered relevant.

## Hey! What's your p@ssw0rd?

Did you know using a simple statement like 'I don't like pineapple on my pizza!' as a password can take more than one year and cost scammers over \$100,000 to crack? The reason it's a great password is it:



- is easy to remember
- has 35 characters
- includes an apostrophe, exclamation mark and spaces.

This is just one of the tips you can find in a range of resources available to help you protect your business. These resources have been developed by the ATO and the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) who recently surveyed small businesses about cyber security.

The ACSC found 75% of small business owners surveyed are responsible for their own IT and almost half say they don't know enough about cyber security.

If this sounds familiar, then these resources are a great place to start.

Type: '[ato cyber security tips](#)' into your web browser.

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