

# Are you protected by our Audit Shield service?



## What is audit activity?

Audit activity includes any audits, inquiries, investigations, reviews or examinations (audit activity) which is instigated by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) or other government revenue authorities to ensure compliance with various tax and legislative requirements.

## How common is audit activity?

The ATO and other government revenue authorities continue to focus on audit activity and are consistently provided with additional resources for this purpose. Now more than ever you are at risk of being selected for an audit, inquiry, investigation, review or examination.

## What is our Audit Shield service and why should it be considered?

Our Audit Shield service provides for the payment of professional fees incurred as a result of you being selected for an audit, inquiry, investigation, review or examination.

The cost of being properly represented in these matters can be quite significant. Even if no adjustments are required, you could still be left with considerable professional fees if you are not protected by our service. Our Audit Shield service provides a fixed, cost effective solution to guard against these unbudgeted costs.

## Who provides our Audit Shield service?

Our Audit Shield service is provided by our accounting firm via a tax audit insurance group policy we hold in our business name, which is underwritten by AAI Limited (trading as Vero Insurance), a subsidiary of Suncorp Group Limited.

## What lodged returns/financial compliance obligations are covered?

- > Capital Gains Tax
- > Employer Obligations – Superannuation Guarantee / PAYG
- > Fringe Benefits Tax
- > Income Tax, GST and BAS
- > Payroll Tax, Land Tax and Stamp Duty
- > R&D Tax Incentive (ATO only)
- > Record Keeping
- > SMSFs (available separately)
- > Work Cover
- > Plus more



## Can a tax deduction be claimed?

Yes. A tax deduction should ordinarily be claimable for your participation fees.

## Want to know more?

If you would like to know more about our Audit Shield service, please contact us.

## Who is covered?

All of our clients are invited to participate in our Audit Shield service. Different levels of cover are available for salary and wage earners, businesses with turnover under \$100 million as well as SMSFs. In most cases individuals and other family entities can be covered with the business entities – for no extra cost. If you decide to participate, your cover commences one business day after your payment is received.

## What is not included?

We have carefully selected our Audit Shield service to provide the widest possible coverage for us and our clients. However, we do remind our clients that such items or circumstances, as listed below, are not covered:

- Actions in regard to any notices or communications from the ATO or any other government revenue authorities that are educational or advisory in nature or merely suggest, invite or propose actions to be taken by you; or act as a warning to you that you may be selected for audit activity at a future time; or do not compel you to take any action.
- Any ATO audit (with the exception of an audit of compliance with the *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992*) where the auditor has imposed a final shortfall or culpability penalty of 75% or more, and any ATO audit of compliance with the *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992* where the auditor has imposed a final shortfall or culpability penalty of more than 100% of the superannuation guarantee charge, and/or the return is deemed to have been fraudulently lodged.
- Any matter in relation to applications, assessments or reviews of government benefits, entitlements, grants, and/or subsidies and any form of activity involving a review relevant to you maintaining industry status, licence compliance, membership or any form of application, registration or re-registration process.
- Any fine or penalties imposed or for any amounts payable pursuant to an amended notice of assessment or adjustment including but not limited to any additional tax, duty, government impost or similar payments.
- Costs for work incurred which should have been undertaken prior to the audit activity (e.g. outstanding lodgements).
- Audit activity where notification was given prior to the inception of cover (i.e. prior to our receipt of your participation fee).

## Is it mandatory to participate in our Audit Shield service?

No, it is an optional service provided by our accounting firm to you. You have the opportunity to participate in or decline our Audit Shield service offering.

## What do I need to do to participate?

Please contact one of our team members to obtain further information about our Audit Shield service and to learn how you can participate.