

## Media Release

13 August 2018

### TAX OFFICE TO MONITOR AIRBNB PROVIDERS

Tourism Accommodation Australia have welcomed the announcement by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) that it will be collecting data from online accommodation platforms such as Airbnb and short stay accommodation providers, in a move that will significantly increase equity between traditional accommodation providers and the largely unregulated short stay accommodation sector.

Tourism Accommodation Australia's National Executive Director, Government and Parliamentary Affairs, Bradley Woods said this was an important development that will result in greater transparency and accountability of online accommodation platforms and short stay accommodation providers.

"This announcement will make significant inroads in creating transparency around the taxation of unregulated short stay accommodation," Mr Woods said.

"As this unregulated sector has grown, traditional accommodation providers have suffered as a result of unequitable taxation arrangements whilst taxpayers have missed out on a substantial revenue stream."

The ATO has announced that it will;

- Collect data to identify individuals that have or may be engaged in providing accommodation services through an online platform during the 2016-17 to 2019-20 financial years.
- Acquire details of all payments made by online accommodation platforms to accommodation providers, including payments made by international entities for the 2016-17 to 2019-20 financial years.

The Commonwealth Government has estimated that a result of these new activities by the ATO, the records of approximately 190,000 individuals will be obtained, underscoring the significance of this policy and the revenue that may be derived as a result.

Tourism Accommodation Australia welcomes the fact that this new program will not only ensure taxpayers abide by their taxation obligations but importantly, will ensure they are meeting registration, lodgement and reporting responsibilities.

"I congratulate the Commonwealth Government and the ATO for identifying this gap in information and source of revenue – this development is a welcome one for those in the regulated accommodation sector who make substantial taxation contributions to state and federal governments," Mr Woods said.

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