

## UCA's GST Compliance Survey – Summary of Responses

Dear Members,

I provide a summary of the key findings provided to the ATO as follows.

### **Preliminary comments**

University Colleges Australia (UCA) has now completed a survey of not-for-profit university colleges (UCs) in relation to the discontinuation of the GST Tool. This was in response to the ATO discontinuing use of the GST tool post-31 December 2021, as recommended by consultant JLL. The tool was established in 2009 by the ATO as a mechanism to demonstrate GST-free compliance by not-for-profit UCs.

### **Summary findings**

Of the 53 colleges for whom this is relevant, there have been 43 respondents as at 17 August 2021 (81%). Specifically, in response to your particular questions, those surveyed advised as follows –

#### **1. For members currently using the tool, do they use any other guidance or support material?**

Of the 43 respondents, 38 have been using the GST tool to date (88%). Members currently using the tool cited modest cost of compliance, clear disaggregation of the different services provided by the college and uniqueness of the facility as compelling factors for its use. 66% have been using it since its launch in 2009 and almost all for at least five years. Guidance has been provided almost exclusively by the ATO or Peter McDonald. One college used external accountants but noted that this was costly.

#### **2. What are some of the key points/issues they would like clarified in any guidance the ATO develops?**

The critical concern is that compliance can be demonstrated directly. The disaggregation issue was significant prior to the tool being developed. Users are wondering how this will be addressed in any alternative guidance.

#### **3. For members currently not using the tool, what guidance material do they refer to?**

The 5 not using the tool (12%) referred to external consultants or private rulings.

#### **4. Are there areas within the guidance material they would like the ATO to expand on or clarify further?**

The issue is outsourced and so this group does not deal with issues of clarification directly.

I shall keep you briefed on any further developments and responses from the ATO.

Again, with thanks for your response to our questions on GST compliance. I am also grateful to Adjunct Professor Bill Peirson (UCA Committee) for his assistance with this task.

With best regards,

**Wayne Erickson**

President  
University Colleges Australia