



Trusts

- <https://www.ato.gov.au/General/Trusts/>
- Last modified: 07 Jan 2019
- QC 23082

Trusts are widely used for investment and business purposes.

A trust is an obligation imposed on a person or other entity to hold property for the benefit of beneficiaries. While in legal terms a trust is a relationship not a legal entity, trusts are treated as taxpayer entities for the purposes of tax administration.

The trustee is responsible for managing the trust's tax affairs, including registering the trust in the tax system, lodging trust tax returns and paying some tax liabilities.

Beneficiaries (except some minors and non-residents) include their share of the trust's net income as income in their own tax returns. There are special rules for some types of trust including family trusts, deceased estates and super funds.

Find out about

- [Trustees and beneficiaries](#)
- [Trust income](#)
- [Trust capital gains and losses](#)
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- [Trusts – tax consequences of trust splitting](#)
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- [Choosing your business structure](#)
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Trustees and beneficiaries

- <https://www.ato.gov.au/General/Trusts/Trustees-and-beneficiaries/>
- Last modified: 10 Sep 2015
- QC 23084

Trustees

The trustee(s) (there may be more than one) of a trust may be a person or a company (the latter is known as a corporate trustee). In either case, the trustee must be legally capable of holding trust property in their own right. The trustee holds the trust property for the benefit of the beneficiaries.

Where the trust is established by deed (which in the case of a deceased estate is the will), the trustee must deal with the trust property in line with the intentions of the settlor as set out in the trust deed. They must also act in accordance with the relevant state or territory law regulating trusts, and with any other applicable law, including tax law.

Under trust law, trustees are:

- personally liable for the debts of the trusts they administer, and
- entitled to be indemnified out of the trust property for liabilities incurred in the proper exercise of the trustee's powers (except where a breach of trust has occurred).

Under tax law, the trustee is responsible for managing the trust's tax affairs, including registering the trust in the tax system, lodging trust tax returns and paying some tax liabilities.

Beneficiaries

A trust beneficiary can be a person, a company or the trustee of another trust.

The trustee may also be a beneficiary, but not the sole beneficiary unless there is more than one trustee.

Beneficiaries may have an entitlement to trust income or capital that is set out in the trust deed or they may acquire an entitlement because the trustee exercises a discretion to pay them income or capital.

Generally, the beneficiaries are taxed on the net income of a trust based on their share of the trust's income – regardless of when or whether the income is actually paid to them.

Next:

- [Trust income](#)

Trust income

- <https://www.ato.gov.au/General/Trusts/Trust-income/>
- Last modified: 24 Jan 2019
- QC 23087

The net income of a trust (effectively its taxable income) is its assessable income for the year less allowable deductions worked out on the assumption that the trustee is a resident (even if the trustee is actually a non-resident).

Because the income of a trust is determined in accordance with the trust deed and its net income is determined in accordance with tax law, the two amounts are often different.

Generally, the net income of a trust is taxed in the hands of the beneficiaries (or the trustee on their behalf) based on their share of the trust's income (that is, the share they are 'presently entitled' to) regardless of when or whether the income is actually paid to them.

For example, if the beneficiary has a 50% share of the trust's income, they are assessed on a 50% share of the trust's net income. This is referred to as the proportionate approach.

Special rules apply to [franked distributions](#) and [capital gains](#) included in the trust's net income.

A beneficiary is presently entitled to trust income for an income year where they have, by the end of that year, a present or immediate right to demand payment from the trustee. The entitlement will depend on the trust deed and any discretion that the trustee has under the deed to allocate income between beneficiaries.

The trustee will need to provide each beneficiary with details of their share of the net income, so that the beneficiaries can include this amount in their tax returns.

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- [Resolutions checklist](#)

Tax rates

Adult and company beneficiaries pay tax on their share of the trust's net income at the tax rates that apply to them.

The trustee pays tax on behalf of non-resident beneficiaries and those who are

minors, based on their share of the trust's net income. These beneficiaries may need to declare their share of the trust's net income in their own income tax returns, and can claim a credit for the tax paid on their behalf by the trustee.

Higher rates of tax apply to most trust distributions to minors (see [Your income if you are under 18 years old](#)).

If there is any part of the trust's income for which no beneficiary is presently entitled, the trustee is taxed on the corresponding share of net income. If there is no trust income the trustee is taxed on any net income.

The trustee is generally taxed on the trust income at the highest marginal rate that applies to individuals except for some types of trusts (including deceased estates), which are taxed at modified individual rates.

Franked distributions

Unless prevented by the trust deed, a beneficiary may be made specifically entitled to a franked distribution, resulting in the beneficiary being taxed on the franked distribution. In this way, franked distributions can be streamed to particular beneficiaries for tax purposes.

If no beneficiary is specifically entitled to a franked distribution, it's taxed proportionately to all beneficiaries based on their entitlement to the trust income (with some modifications) – that is, in much the same way as the other net income of the trust.

If a beneficiary qualifies for a franking credit offset, they are also required to include the amount in their assessable income.

If the trust is not a family trust, a beneficiary without a fixed entitlement to the franked distribution is generally not entitled to use the associated franking credits unless their total franking credits from all sources for a year is \$5,000 or less.

See also:

- [Tax treatment of trust franked distributions](#)
- [Streaming trust capital gains and franked distributions](#)
- [Resolutions checklist](#)

Losses

A loss made by a trust in an income year can't be distributed to beneficiaries. However, it can be carried forward and used to reduce the trust's net income in a later year.

See also:

- [Trust loss provisions](#)

Trust capital gains and losses

- <https://www.ato.gov.au/General/Trusts/Trust-capital-gains-and-losses/>
- Last modified: 24 Jan 2019
- QC 23088

Disposal of a trust asset (or another capital gains tax event) is likely to result in a capital gain or loss for the trust (unless a beneficiary is [absolutely entitled](#) to the asset).

Capital gains and losses are taken into account in working out the trust's net capital gain or net capital loss for an income year:

- A net capital gain is included in the trust's net income.
- A net capital loss is carried forward and offset against the trust's future capital gains.

As part of the net income of a trust, the net capital gain for the year is then allocated proportionately to beneficiaries based on their entitlements to trust income – unless:

- there is a beneficiary that is specifically entitled to the capital gain, or
- the trustee (of a resident trust) chooses to be taxed on a capital gain.

This choice can be made provided all or part of an amount relating to the gain has not been paid to, or otherwise allocated for the benefit of, a beneficiary during or within two months of the end of the income year. This rule allows the trustee to choose to pay tax on behalf of a beneficiary who doesn't immediately benefit from the gain.

If there is no beneficiary entitled to income (or specifically entitled to the capital gain) the trustee is taxed on the capital gain.

Where the trustee is taxed on trust net income at the top marginal rate, they are not entitled to the CGT discount on the gain.

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- [Absolute entitlement](#)
- [Specific entitlement](#)

Absolute entitlement

If a beneficiary is absolutely entitled to a trust asset, the asset is treated for CGT purposes as if it is owned directly by the beneficiary and not the trustee. Any actions taken by the trustee in relation to the asset are taken to have been done by the beneficiary directly. This means that if a capital gains tax (CGT) event happens in relation to the asset, any capital gain or loss will be made directly by the beneficiary and doesn't form part of the trust's net income.

A beneficiary is absolutely entitled to an asset of a trust if they have a 'vested and indefeasible' interest in the entire trust asset – that is, they can direct the trustee to

immediately transfer the asset to themselves or to someone else.

For example, on 30 July a trustee makes a beneficiary absolutely entitled to a property held by the trustee. On 30 September the trustee sells the property for \$100,000. For CGT purposes, the asset is treated as being the beneficiary's from 30 July and the beneficiary (not the trustee) is taken to receive the capital proceeds of \$100,000 from the sale of the property on 30 September.

Specific entitlement

A capital gain can be streamed to a particular beneficiary by making them specifically entitled to the gain.

If a beneficiary is made specifically entitled to a trust capital gain, the capital gain is taken into account in working out their net capital gain for the income year with the benefit of any discounts or concessions they are entitled to.

Note that a beneficiary may be specifically entitled to a capital gain even if they don't have an entitlement to income of the trust (for example, because they had an entitlement to trust capital).

See also

- [Streaming trust capital gains and franked distributions](#)
- [Capital gains made by trusts](#)
- [Resolutions checklist](#)

Example: Specific entitlement

A trustee derived the following amounts in the 2014–15 income year:

- interest income of \$100
- a capital gain of \$200 that is eligible for the CGT 50% discount.

The trust deed defines income to include capital gains. The income of the trust estate is therefore \$300 (\$100 interest income + \$200 capital gain) and the net income of the trust is \$200 (\$100 interest income + \$100 net capital gain because the CGT discount is applied to halve the \$200 capital gain).

Provided the trust deed doesn't prevent the trustee streaming capital gains, the trustee can make:

- Beneficiary B specifically entitled to the \$200 capital gain, and
- Beneficiary A presently entitled to the remaining \$100.

Beneficiary B has a \$100 capital gain to take into account in working out their own net capital gain. Because the gain was a discount capital gain, Beneficiary B must gross it up (double it) and apply the CGT discount (if they qualify in their own right for the CGT discount). Beneficiary A has a \$100 share of net income.

On the other hand, if the trustee did not stream the capital gain, Beneficiary A is presently entitled to one third of the income of the trust estate and Beneficiary B is presently entitled to two-thirds. Beneficiary A is assessed on \$33 net income and has a capital gain of \$34 and Beneficiary B is assessed on \$66 net income and has a capital gain of \$67.

Trusts – registering and reporting for tax

- <https://www.ato.gov.au/General/Trusts/Trusts---registering-and-reporting-for-tax/>
- Last modified: 30 Jan 2020
- QC 23089

The trustee is responsible for managing the trust's tax affairs, including registering the trust in the tax system, lodging trust tax returns and paying some tax liabilities.

The beneficiaries include their share of the trust's net income in their tax returns and may need to pay instalments on their expected tax liability through the pay as you go (PAYG) instalment system.

Special rules apply to closely held trusts or where a beneficiary is a non-resident.

If a trust is carrying on a business, the trustee may have employer obligations.

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- [Registration](#)
- [PAYG instalments](#)
- [Non-resident withholding tax](#)
- [Tax returns](#)
- [Closely held trusts – withholding and reporting](#)
- [Employer obligations](#)

Registration

A trust should have its own tax file number (TFN), which the trustee uses in lodging income tax returns for the trust. A trust is also entitled to an Australian business number (ABN) if the trust is carrying on an enterprise.

The trustee registers for the trust's TFN and ABN in their capacity as trustee. This registration is separate from any registration the trustee may require for other capacities they may act in, including acting on their own behalf.

All trusts will automatically have 'The Trustee for...' added to the name of the trust

when the ABN is registered, as the trustee is responsible for the tax obligations of the trust.

PAYG instalments

Trusts are not liable to pay PAYG instalments. Instead, the beneficiaries (or the trustee when assessed on their behalf) may have to pay instalments based on their share of the trust's instalment income.

See also

- [PAYG instalment income – trusts](#)

Non-resident withholding tax

If a non-resident beneficiary is presently entitled to dividends, interest or royalties included in the trust income, the trustee must withhold tax and remit it to the ATO. The trustee may need to lodge a [PAYG withholding from interest, dividend and royalty payments paid to non-residents – annual report](#).

Tax returns

A trustee is required to lodge a trust income tax return, regardless of the amount of net income involved, unless we advise that a return is not required.

If the trustee is liable for tax they will receive an income tax assessment as trustee that is separate to their own assessment as an individual or corporate tax entity.

See also

- [Trust tax return instructions](#)
- [PS LA 2000/2](#) *An exemption for the trustees of some trust estates from the requirement to furnish a tax return on behalf of the trust estate*
- [Streamlined trust tax return for custodians with non-resident beneficiaries](#)

Beneficiaries generally include their share of the trust's net income in the partnership/trust distributions section of their tax return.

See also

- [Tax rates](#)
- [Lodging your tax return](#)

Closely held trusts – withholding and reporting

The following additional requirements apply to trustees of closely held trusts.

Tax file number (TFN) withholding

The trustee of a closely held trust, including a family trust, must withhold tax from payments to beneficiaries who have not provided their TFN to the trust.

See also

- [TFN withholding for closely held trusts](#)

Trustee beneficiaries

The trustee of a closely held trust (other than a family trust) with one or more trustee beneficiaries who are presently entitled to a share of the income or a tax-preferred amount (or both) of the trust must provide us with certain details of the trustee beneficiaries.

See also

- [Trustee beneficiary reporting rules](#)

Trustee beneficiary non-disclosure tax

This tax is payable if:

- the trustee of a closely held trust (other than a family trust) fails to lodge a correct trustee beneficiary (TB) statement within the specified period in respect of each trustee beneficiary's share of net income, or
- a share of the net income of a closely held trust (including a family trust) is included in the assessable income of a trustee beneficiary under section 97 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* and the trustee of the closely held trust becomes presently entitled to an amount that is reasonably attributable to the whole or a part of the untaxed part of the share (referred to as a 'round robin' or 'circular trust distribution').

If the trustee of a closely held trust is liable for trustee beneficiary non-disclosure tax, the trustee beneficiary's share of net income is not included in their assessable income under section 97 (except where the share of net income is assessable under sections 99, 99A and 99B).

See also

- [Rules for closely held trusts](#)

Employer obligations

If a trust employs people, the trustee will have employer obligations, including pay as you go (PAYG) withholding, paying super contributions for any eligible employees and reporting and paying tax on fringe benefits.

See also

- [Your workers](#)

Specific rules for some trusts

- <https://www.ato.gov.au/General/Trusts/Specific-rules-for-some-trusts/>
- Last modified: 12 May 2016
- QC 23083

There are specific rules for:

- [Unit trusts](#)
- [Managed investment trusts](#)
- [Family trusts](#)
- [Deceased estates](#)
- [Super funds](#)
- [Charitable trusts](#)
- [Special disability trusts](#)

Unit trusts

Unit trusts are used in many commercial arrangements, including managed investment schemes. Units can often be bought and sold in a way similar to shares in a company. Some unit trusts are taxed like companies and their unit holders like shareholders.

See also

- [Unit trusts treated as corporate tax entities](#)

Managed investment trusts

A managed investment trust (MIT) is a type of managed investment scheme.

A new tax system for MITs came into effect in May 2016. The new tax system is designed to reduce complexity and increase certainty for MITs and their investors.

See also

- [Managed investment trusts – overview](#)

Family trusts

A trust becomes a family trust when the trustee of the trust makes a 'family trust election'. To make the election, the trust must be controlled by a 'family group'.

Trusts that qualify as a family trust for the purposes of the trust loss provisions may benefit from concessional tax treatment.

However, family trust distribution tax (FTDT) applies to distributions made from these trusts if the trustee confers a present entitlement, or distributes income or capital, makes concessional loans or otherwise provides or allows the use of income or capital of the trust for less than its market value to a person or entity that

is outside the trust's family group.

FTDT is payable by the trustee of the family trust at the highest marginal rate plus the Medicare levy. Beneficiaries that receive distributions on which FTDT was paid receive the distribution as non-assessable non-exempt income (against which they can't deduct expenses).

See also

- [Family trust concessions](#)

Deceased estates

A deceased estate is technically not a trust while it is being administered, but is treated as a trust for tax purposes, with the executor or administrator of the estate taken to be the trustee.

See also:

- [Deceased estates](#)

Super funds

Super funds are generally trusts, and have trustees and beneficiaries (members). However, super funds are taxed differently to other types of trusts.

- [Self-managed super funds](#)

Charitable trusts

Some types of charitable funds must be established as trusts in order to qualify for charity tax concessions.

See also:

- [Choosing your business structure](#)

Special disability trusts

Immediate family members and carers can set up a special disability trust to provide for the future care and accommodation needs of a person with a severe disability. The trustee is taxed at individual marginal rates.

See also:

- [Reporting the income of a special disability trust](#)

Reporting the income of a special disability

trust

- <https://www.ato.gov.au/General/Trusts/Specific-rules-for-some-trusts/Reporting-the-income-of-a-special-disability-trust/>
- Last modified: 01 Mar 2022
- QC 23538

This information is for the trustees of special disability trusts and the principal beneficiaries of such trusts (or their tax advisers).

It explains how to complete the trust tax return of the trust and the individual tax return of the principal beneficiary.

On this page

- [How special disability trusts are taxed](#)
- [Completing a trust tax return for a special disability trust](#)
- [Completing an individual tax return for a principal beneficiary](#)

How special disability trusts are taxed

Special disability trusts are trusts established in accordance with Part 3.18A of the [Social Security Act 1991](#)¹ to help families and carers provide financially for the care and accommodation of a person with a severe disability – referred to as the principal beneficiary.

The tax rules for special disability trusts are designed so that the net income of the trust is taxed at the principal beneficiary's marginal tax rate, rather than some or all of it being assessed to the trustee at the rates applicable under section 99A.

Unlike other trusts, where taxation of net income depends on a beneficiary being actually presently entitled to trust income, a principal beneficiary is deemed to be presently entitled to all of the income of a special disability trust (even if there is none). The principal beneficiary of the trust is also treated for tax purposes as though they are under a legal disability, even if they are not. This means the entire net income of the trust is assessed to the trustee on behalf of the beneficiary.

If the principal beneficiary is a beneficiary in more than one trust or derives income from other sources, the net income of the special disability trust should also be included in the beneficiary's assessable income. Any tax payable by the trustee of the special disability trust should be claimed as a credit on the beneficiary's individual tax return (to prevent double taxation).

If a trust estate is not a special disability trust at the end of an income year, these rules do not apply and net income is taxed under the ordinary trust taxation rules.

Example

Mark is the principal beneficiary of the Lang SDT, which is a special

disability trust. Mark is an Australian resident, is not under a legal disability and has a part-time job during the income year from which he earns \$15,000.

During the income year, the Lang SDT earns income of \$25,000. The net income of the trust is also \$25,000.

The trustee of the Lang SDT applies \$20,000 for Mark's reasonable care and accommodation costs during the income year and retains the remaining \$5,000 in the trust.

Mark is treated as if he is presently entitled to all of the income of the Lang SDT and under a legal disability. The trustee of the Lang SDT is therefore assessed on the entire \$25,000 in accordance with subsection 98(1). However, as Mark has also derived income from his part-time employment, he is required to include the entire income of the SDT in his assessable income under subsection 100(1).

Mark is assessed on \$40,000 at his marginal rates of tax. He is able to offset against his individual assessment, any tax payable by the trustee of the Lang SDT on the \$25,000 of trust net income.

Completing a trust tax return for a special disability trust

Generally you complete a [trust tax return](#) for a special disability trust in the same way as for other trusts. There are a few specific requirements:

- The code for the type of trust is 'C'.
- Complete the distribution details at item 57 as follows:
 - At the reference to 'Beneficiary 1', provide details of the principal beneficiary of the special disability trust. Include the principal beneficiary's tax file number (if they have one) and date of birth.
 - At label V 'Assessment calculation code', insert '45' if the principal beneficiary is a resident of Australia, or '145' if the principal beneficiary is a non-resident.
 - Complete the remaining labels under label V 'Assessment calculation code' as necessary for beneficiary 1 (as per the return instructions).
 - Leave the other beneficiary statements of distribution blank.
 - You don't need to provide any details of income to which no beneficiary is presently entitled. This is because the principal beneficiary of the trust is treated as being presently entitled to all of the income of the trust.
- Any refundable tax offset amount that is refundable in the trust tax return should not also be claimed in the beneficiary's individual tax return. This means the following items should be claimed only in the trust tax return
 - all 'share of credits from income' amounts at item 8
 - all 'TFN amounts withheld from gross interest' at item 11
 - all 'TFN amounts withheld from dividends' at item 12.

Completing an individual tax return for a principal beneficiary

If the principal beneficiary is required to lodge an [Individual tax return](#), the guidance below will help in completing it.

If the special disability trust has a total net income amount at item 26 of the trust tax return, the principal beneficiary should include that amount in their individual tax return at item 13 (of the supplementary section).

If the trustee paid tax on that net income, the principal beneficiary should:

- claim the tax paid by the trustee as a credit at P item T9 'Other refundable tax offsets' in their individual tax return
- print S in the code box at the right of P.

In addition to any income from the special disability trust, the principal beneficiary should include in their return any other personally derived assessable income or deductible expenditure incurred.

If the special disability trust has net income but is not required to lodge a trust tax return, the principal beneficiary should:

- still include the amount of net income at item 13
- not include any amount as a credit at item T9 'Other refundable tax offsets', as the trustee will not have paid any tax.

Trust vesting

- <https://www.ato.gov.au/General/Trusts/Trust-vesting/>
- Last modified: 11 Feb 2019
- QC 49690

A trust deed usually specifies a date, or an event (such as the youngest beneficiary attaining a certain age), on which the interests in the trust property must vest. The deed may describe this as the 'vesting date' or 'termination date'.

On vesting, the beneficial interests in the property of the trust become fixed. This is to avoid breaching the 'rule against perpetuities'. You should check your trust deed so that you are aware of when your trust will vest.

When a trust vests

What happens when a trust vests will depend on the terms of the trust. For

example, the trust deed may direct that, on the vesting day, the trustee is to end the trust by distributing the trust property to particular beneficiaries or it may provide that the trustee continues to hold the trust property on trust from this date for certain beneficiaries.

The vesting of the trust does not always end the trust or create a new trust. If the trustee is permitted by the trust deed to hold trust property for specified beneficiaries after the vesting date, the same underlying trust relationship continues although the duties of the trustee will have changed. For example, the trustee will no longer have any discretionary powers to appoint income or capital after vesting.

There may be income tax implications of the trust vesting depending on the trust deed, including capital gains tax (CGT) consequences. Our views on the income tax consequences of a trust vesting are set out in [Taxation Ruling TR 2018/6 Income Tax: Trust Vesting – amending the vesting date and consequences of a trust vesting](#)

If the vesting of the trust has not resulted in a CGT event happening or led to the creation of a new trust, the trust continues to use its current trust registrations (ABN/TFN/GST).

Provisions of the trust deed dealing with vesting

You might have the power under your deed to amend the provisions that deal with vesting, including the vesting date. Determining this requires consideration of the terms of the trust deed, including any specific and general powers of the trustee and any relevant exceptions to those powers.

If the trust deed does not provide you with powers to extend or bring forward the vesting date, you will need to approach the supreme court in your state or territory to make any changes to the vesting date.

Continuing to administer the trust in the same manner as it was administered before the vesting date will not extend the vesting date.

It's too late to change the vesting date or vesting clause of a trust after it has vested.

Validly extended vesting dates

Amending the vesting date with a valid exercise of power in a trust deed or the approval of a relevant court prior to the trust vesting, will not cause CGT event E1 to happen or create a new trust.

Administrative approach on trusts vesting

We want to support trustees and beneficiaries who engage with us and want to get their tax affairs in order.

You are encouraged to contact us before you lodge your return if you have any concerns whether your trust may have vested or is about to vest. We will work with

you to get it right.

We won't devote compliance resources solely to apply TR 2018/6 *Income Tax: Trust vesting – consequences of a trust vesting* in relation to trusts that vested before the issue of the final ruling. However, we will act consistently with the views set out in TR 2018/6 where the Commissioner is required to:

- issue or amend assessments (if we identify other tax risks in relation to the trust during compliance activities that affect its net income and to whom it is assessed)
- state a view (for example in a private ruling or in submissions in a litigation matter).

We won't apply penalties that trustees or beneficiaries may be liable to pay where the parties engage with us and have a compliance history that shows they have been generally compliant with their tax obligations. We also won't assess interest where it can be established, or the Commissioner can reasonably be satisfied, that income tax has been paid on the net income of the trust that is consistent with what we consider to be correctly payable.

What you need to do

- You need to carefully check the trust deed to determine the vesting date and what action the trustee must take on vesting. We recommend that you regularly review your trust deed, but this is particularly important if there has been, or is proposed to be, a change in trustee or any other amendments to your trust deed.
- Understand your obligations on vesting as the trustee. Ignoring or being unaware of the trust vesting date can have significant tax and trust law implications for both trustees and beneficiaries. The best way to prevent any issues arising is to check the vesting date and vesting clause in your trust deed. This will allow you time to seek professional advice if the requirements are not clear, and make preparations or amendments to the trust deed as required.
- If the vesting date for your trust has already passed, you may want to seek professional advice about the legal implications of your trust vesting.
- You need to consider taking further action if you become aware of any issues. This may include
 - amending any relevant assessments that are within period of review (your amendment request should include the name of the trust that has vested)
 - contacting us for advice if you have questions or concerns about the tax consequences of your trust vesting.

You can apply for a private ruling, request an early engagement discussion or write to us at the address below.

Australian Taxation Office
GPO Box 9990
[insert the name and postcode of your capital city]

For example:

Australian Taxation Office
GPO Box 9990
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Next steps:

- [Early engagement](#)
- [Making a voluntary disclosure](#)
- [Applying for a private binding ruling](#)
- [Request an amendment to a business or super tax return](#)

Trusts – tax consequences of trust splitting

- <https://www.ato.gov.au/General/Trusts/Trusts---tax-consequences-of-trust-splitting/>
- Last modified: 18 Dec 2019
- QC 53129

Trust splitting is a common term for an arrangement where separate trustees are appointed over different assets of an existing discretionary trust.

Each trustee is typically controlled by a different party.

The intention of trust splitting is to produce a structure where each trustee is able to deal with the assets it holds independently of the other trustees. In particular, the trustee is able to deal with the assets largely for the benefit of the controlling party.

We have released a Taxation Determination that expresses the ATO view that a trust split of the type described in the Determination will have CGT consequences.

See also:

- [Taxation Determination TD 2019/14](#) *Income tax: will a trust split arrangement of the type described in this Determination cause a new trust to be settled over some but not all assets of the original trust with the result that CGT event E1 in subsection 104-55(1) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 happens?*
- [Trusts](#)

Our commitment to you

We are committed to providing you with accurate, consistent and clear information to help you understand your rights and entitlements and meet your obligations.

If you follow our information and it turns out to be incorrect, or it is misleading and you make a mistake as a result, we will take that into account when determining what action, if any, we should take.

Some of the information on this website applies to a specific financial year. This is clearly marked. Make sure you have the information for the right year before making decisions based on that information.

If you feel that our information does not fully cover your circumstances, or you are unsure how it applies to you, contact us or seek professional advice.

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