

A Clear Direction Financial Planning

Level 19, 10 Eagle Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
scottk@acleardirection.com.au
(07) 3379 6068
ABN: 85 147 572 870



2012 Budget - Personal Finance Summary

The budget has provided a number of significant changes impacting on financial planning strategies. These have been outlined in this summary. The major changes include:

- Deferral of higher concessional contributions cap for individuals aged 50 and over from 1 July 2012
- Higher tax on concessional contributions for very high income earners from 1 July 2012
- Mature age worker tax offset (MAWTO) to be phased out from 1 July 2012
- Increased Medicare levy low income thresholds from 1 July 2011
- Means testing of net medical expenses tax offset (NMETO) from 1 July 2012
- FTB Part A increase
- Family Tax Benefit (FTB) A eligibility from January 2013
- Supplementary Allowance
- Schoolkids Bonus
- Aged care reform from 1 July 2014
- Accelerated real estate review from 1 July 2012
- Reduced payment period of Australian Government Payments for people who are temporarily absent from Australia from 1 January 2013
- Australian residency requirements for the Age Pension from 1 January 2014
- Removal of the capital gains tax discount for non-residents
- Changes to tax rates for non-residents
- Company Loss Carry Back
- Small Business Immediate Write-Off Extension
- Previous proposals shelved
 - Reduction of the corporate tax rate to 28%. The corporate tax rate will remain at 30%.
 - Standard tax deduction of \$1,000 for work-related expenses and the cost of managing tax affairs.
 - 50% discount for the first \$1,000 of interest income.

The following changes announced since last year's budget have also been confirmed

- Confirmation of changes to marginal income tax rates & thresholds
- The minimum draw down relief for superannuation pension holders will be extended next year with minimums being 75% of the original rules and returning to the normal rates from July 1 2013.
- Changes to co-contribution arrangements
- Superannuation guarantee rate to progressively rise from 9% to 12%
- Maximum age limit for the superannuation guarantee to be abolished
- Low income superannuation boost
- Allowances & supplements to reduce the impact of the introduction of a price on carbon

Each of the above items has been addressed in a little more detail in the following sections.

Deferral of higher concessional contributions cap from 1 July 2012

In an unexpected move, the Government decided to defer the \$50,000 concessional cap for individuals age 50 and over with account balances under \$500,000. The concessional cap will be \$25,000 for everyone in 2012-13 and 2013-14. The general \$25,000 concessional cap will apply to all individuals from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2014.

Further, in its mid-year economic statement released in November 2011 the Government proposed pausing indexation of the general concessional cap until 1 July 2014. It therefore expects that the general cap is likely to increase to \$30,000 in 2014/15 with the higher cap commencing at \$55,000. The following table summarises the concessional cap for the current and subsequent three financial years.

Financial year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 (expected, but subject to actual indexation changes)
General concessional cap	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$30,000
Concessional cap for over- 50s	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$55,000*

Note: * Where the individual's super balance is less than \$500,000

Lower concessional caps will reduce the tax-effectiveness of super contributions strategies in varying degrees for clients aged 50 or more. This is summarised in the following table.

Client's Marginal tax rate	31.5%	38.5%	46.5%
Additional tax payable over 2 years compared to 2011-12	\$8,250	\$11,750	\$15,750

Note: Assumes \$50,000 of pre-tax income used either wholly for concessional contributions or contributions are reduced by \$25,000 due to the reduction in the concessional cap and taxed at marginal tax rates.

Further impacts will be felt by those clients implementing transition to retirement (TTR) strategies, particularly those aged 60 or over whose ability to swap significant levels of tax-free pension income for concessional super contributions will be limited. While TTR remains an effective strategy, its benefits are reduced.

Strategy Thoughts

Those workers who are 50 or older (or who are turning 50) in the next few years need to consider strategies to hold savings that would otherwise have been salary sacrificed into super. If account balances look like being below \$500,000 come July 2014, these savings may be best held outside of superannuation to then be utilised to offset salary sacrificed income from July 2014 onwards once the threshold is lifted to \$55,000.

Those in transition to retirement phase will need to closely consider the levels of pension draw downs to minimise the withdrawal of surplus funds.

Higher tax on concessional contributions for very high income earners from 1 July 2012

From 1 July 2012, individuals with income greater than \$300,000 will have the tax concession on their contributions cut from 30 per cent to 15 per cent (excluding the Medicare levy). Rather than only paying 15% on concessional superannuation contributions (employer and salary sacrifice) these individuals will pay 30%.

- 'Income' means taxable income, concessional super contributions, adjusted fringe benefits, net investment loss, target foreign income, tax-free government pensions and benefits, less child support.
- If concessional contributions themselves push a person over the \$300,000 limit, the higher rate of tax will only apply to the part of the contributions that are in excess of the threshold.
- 'Concessional contributions' means all employer contributions (both SG and salary sacrifice), deductible personal contributions and notional employer contributions for defined benefit members.
- Excess concessional contributions will only be subject to excess contributions tax not the additional 15% tax.

Strategy Thoughts

Consideration should be given as to whether after tax income is used to make personal contributions into super in order to replace the impact of extra superannuation contributions tax.

Mature age worker tax offset (MAWTO) to be phased out from 1 July 2012

MAWTO will be phased out for workers born on or after 1 July 1957. Access to this offset will be maintained for taxpayers who are aged 55 or older in 2011-12.

Increasing the Medicare Levy low-income thresholds

The Government will increase the Medicare levy low income threshold to \$19,404 for individuals and \$32,743 for families for 2011-12. The additional amount of threshold for each dependent child or student will also increase to \$3,007. The Medicare levy threshold for single pensioners below age pension age will also increase to \$30,451.

Means testing of net medical expenses tax offset (NMETO) from 1 July 2012

People with adjusted taxable income above the Medicare levy surcharge thresholds (i.e. \$84,000 for singles and \$168,000 for couples in 2012-13) will be means tested. The threshold above which a taxpayer may claim NMETO will be increased to \$5,000 and indexed annually thereafter. The reimbursement rate will be reduced to 10% for eligible out of pocket expenses.

Increasing Family Tax Benefit Part A

From 1 July 2013 Family Tax Benefit Part A (FTB-A) will increase for all eligible families. For those on the maximum rate, the Government will deliver an increase of \$300 per year for families with one child and an increase of \$600 for families with two or more children. For families receiving the base rate, the increase will be \$100 for families with one child and \$200 for families with two more children.

Family Tax Benefit (FTB) A eligibility from January 2013

Eligibility to FTB A will be limited to those students under 18 years of age or where a young person remains in secondary school to the end of the calendar year in which they turn 19. Families with children in school will be the primary target group for FTB A payments. Youth Allowance will be the primary form of assistance for those young adults 18 years and over.

Supplementary Allowance

The Government will introduce a new Supplementary Allowance for certain income recipients including Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance and Parenting Payment. The new allowance is \$210 pa for singles and \$175 for a member of a couple. The payment is made in two instalments, is not means tested and is tax-free. The rate would increase in line with CPI. The purpose of the payment is to assist recipients with the cost of living.

Schoolkids Bonus

The Bonus will replace the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and be paid directly to all eligible recipients. From 2013, eligible families will automatically receive a payment of \$410 for primary school students and \$820 for secondary school students, paid in two equal instalments, in January and July of each year commencing January 2013. As a transitional arrangement, families will receive the full 2011-12 ETR entitlement in a single payment in June 2012.

Previously families were required to retain receipts to claim the ETR in their tax return. The Schoolkids Bonus will mean that eligible families will automatically receive assistance, without the need to retain receipts and make a claim.

Eligibility for the payment will remain open to families with children enrolled and attending school who are in receipt of FTB A or other qualifying income support payments or allowances under a prescribed educational scheme that precludes the family from receiving FTB A.

Aged care reform from 1 July 2014

The Government has reconfirmed previous announcements to reform aged care in the Living Longer, Living Better package on 20 April 2012.

Measures announced include:

- Introduction of a new income test from 1 July 2014 for Home Care packages – full pensioners will not pay an income tested fee. Part pensioners will pay up to \$5,000 pa and self-funded retirees will pay up to \$10,000 pa.
- Income and asset tests will be combined from 1 July 2014. An annual cap of \$25,000 will apply to care contributions in residential aged care. Care recipients will continue to pay the basic daily care fee of 84% of basic age pension. Residents in permanent care at 30 June 2014 will not be affected by the changes.
- A lifetime cap of \$60,000 will apply to homecare and residential care contributions.
- All residents who enter permanent care from 1 July 2014 will have the choice of paying for their accommodation through a fully refundable lump sum payment, periodic payments or a combination thereof.

Accelerated real estate review from 1 July 2012

The frequency of asset reviews for income support recipients who are most at risk of changes in the value of their real estate investments will change to once a year from every two years. This will apply to Age Pension, Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment recipients who own real estate in addition to their own home which could affect their rate of payment.

Reduced payment period of Australian Government Payments for people who are temporarily absent from Australia from 1 January 2013

From 1 January 2013, the period of time that people who travel overseas will continue to be paid will be reduced from 13 to 6 weeks for most income support and family payment recipients.

Beneficiaries who are outside Australia on the date of implementation will retain the 13 week portability of their payments until they return to Australia. The Age Pension will be excluded as it can be paid overseas indefinitely, once certain criteria are met.

Some payments such as Parenting Payment and Family Tax Benefit also have a requirement which means that the portability period is not reset until the person has returned to Australia for a period of 13 weeks. This return period will also be reduced to six weeks.

This measure affects the following payments and benefits: Disability Support Pension, Parenting Payment, Carer Payment, Carer Allowance, Widow B Pension, Wife pension, Widow Allowance, Partner Allowance, Youth Allowance (student), Austudy, Mobility Allowance, Telephone Allowance, Pension Supplement, Utilities Allowance, Seniors Supplement, Clean Energy Supplement, Low Income Supplement, Concession Cards, Family Assistance, and Paid Parental Leave. Family Tax Benefit Part A payments above the base rate will be reduced to the base rate after 6 weeks of a temporary absence from Australia.

This measure does not apply to the Age Pension as it can be paid overseas indefinitely.

Australian residency requirements for the Age Pension from 1 January 2014

Under this proposal, Age Pension recipients who are overseas for more than 26 weeks will be paid their maximum entitlement of pension only if their Australian Working Life Residence (AWLR) period is 35 years or more, rather than 25 years as applies under current arrangements. Pension recipients with less than 35 years AWLR will be paid a proportional rate based on their AWLR period.

Removal of the capital gains tax discount for non-residents

The Government will remove the 50% capital gains tax (CGT) discount for non-residents on capital gains accrued after 7.30 pm (AEST) on 8 May 2012. The CGT discount will remain available for capital gains accrued prior to this time where non-residents choose to obtain a market valuation of assets as at 8 May 2012. This measure essentially impacts non-residents with taxable Australian real property (e.g. real estate in Australia).

Strategy Thoughts

Extra care on the disposal of assets needs to be taken by non-residents if a capital gain will be realised through the disposal.

Changes to tax rates for non-residents

The personal income tax rates and thresholds that apply to non-residents' Australian income will be adjusted. From 1 July 2012, the first two marginal tax rate thresholds will be merged into a single threshold. The marginal rate for this threshold will align with the second marginal tax rate for residents (32.5%) and will apply to all taxable income below \$80,000.

A non-resident with Australian taxable income of \$80,000 is currently subject to tax of \$23,630. This will increase to \$26,000 ($\$80,000 \times 32.5\%$) from 1 July 2012. From 1 July 2015, the same marginal rate will rise from 32.5% to 33% (again aligning it with the second marginal rate for residents at that time).

Company Loss Carry Back

In 2012-13, companies will be able to carry back tax losses of up to \$1 million so they get a refund against tax previously paid. From 2013-14 companies will be able to carry back tax losses for two years. This provides a tax benefit of up to \$300,000 per year.

Small Business Immediate Write-Off Extension

From 1 July this year, all small businesses — whether they are run by sole traders, partnerships, trusts or through companies — will be able to immediately write off each eligible business asset they buy costing less than \$6,500 per asset. This year the threshold was \$5,000.

Previous proposals shelved

In this 2012 Budget, the Government has announced that it will not implement three measures it had previously announced in the 2010 Budget. These are:

- Reduction of the corporate tax rate to 28%. The corporate tax rate will remain at 30%.
- Standard tax deduction of \$1,000 for work-related expenses and the cost of managing tax affairs.
- 50% discount for the first \$1,000 of interest income.

Changes announced between the last and current budget announcements

Confirmation of changes to marginal income tax rates & thresholds

The government has confirmed the changes to marginal income tax rates and thresholds in response to the introduction of a price on Carbon. The key details are:

- The tax-free threshold will initially increase from \$6,000 to \$18,200 and, according to the Government, will free up to one million low-income earners from needing to lodge a tax return from 2012/13.
- The LITO will initially be reduced from \$1,500 to \$445.
- The combined effect of the higher statutory tax-free threshold and the LITO is that the effective tax-free threshold will initially rise to \$20,542. This means individuals will be able to earn up to \$20,542 from 2012/13 without paying any net income tax.

The following table sets out details regarding the changes:

Tax scales	2012-2013		2015-2016	
	Threshold(\$)	Marginal rate	Threshold(\$)	Marginal rate
1st rate	18,201	19%	19,401	19%
2nd rate	37,001	32.5%	37,001	33%
3rd rate	80,001	37%	80,001	37%
4th rate	180,001	45%	180,001	45%
LITO	Up to \$445	1.5% withdrawal rate on income over \$37,000	Up to \$300	1% withdrawal rate on income over \$37,000
Effective tax-free threshold*	20,542		20,979	

Comparison of tax on concessional contributions and salary

The tables below compares the effective tax rate payable on salary and concessional super contributions for people with a range of incomes who do not exceed the CC cap for the 2011/12 and 2012/13 financial years. The 2012/13 table takes into account the low income super contributions and assumes the 30% contributions tax for higher income earners is legislated.

Income band	Marginal tax rate payable	Tax rate payable on concessional super contribution	Super concession	Tax saving per \$1,000 in concessional contributions
In 2011/12				
\$0 - \$6,000	0%	15%	- 15%	- \$150
\$6,001 - \$37,000	15%	15%	0%	\$0
\$37,001 - \$80,000	30%	15%	15%	\$150
\$80,001 - \$180,000	37%	15%	22%	\$220
\$180,001+	45%	15%	30%	\$300
In 2012/13				
\$0 - \$18,200	0%	0%	0%	\$0
\$18,201 - \$37,000	19%	0%	19%	\$190
\$37,001 - \$80,000	32.5%	15%	17.5%	\$175
\$80,001 - \$180,000	37%	15%	22%	\$220
\$180,001 - \$300,000	45%	15%	30%	\$300
\$300,000+	45%	30%	15%	\$150

- Taken from the MLC 2012 Federal Budget Analysis

Strategy Thoughts

Salary sacrifice strategies will need to be re-assessed to determine the optimal level. The general rule of thumb will be that salary sacrifice does not need to push taxable income levels below \$20,500 – the effective tax free threshold.

Minimum payment amounts for account based pensions 2012-13

The Government has extended the drawdown relief that has been provided over the last four years. Minimum payment amounts for account-based, allocated and market linked (term allocated) pensions will be maintained at 2011-12 rates and should return to normal in 2012-13. This will see the minimum draw downs for account based pensions (as a percentage of the account balance at the 1st of July or commencement of the pension):

Age of Beneficiary	2012-13 % factor
Under 65	3.00
65 - 74	3.75
75 - 79	4.50
80 - 84	5.25
85 - 89	6.75
90 - 94	8.25
95 or over	10.50

Term Allocated Pension (TAP) payment factors will also be maintained at current levels with the exact details dependant on the individual arrangements for an account.

Strategy Thoughts

This may provide an opportunity for a range of pension account holders including the following scenarios:

- Those younger than 60 may be able to reduce pension draw downs to avoid paying tax on the withdrawal of taxable components whilst continuing to receive the tax free status on investment earnings of assets held within the pension. This will depend on salary sacrifice arrangements and the need to replace salary sacrificed income.
- Those older than 60 who do not need more than the current minimum pension payments will be able to withdraw a lesser amount of pension payment and thus preserve a larger balance.
- Those with TAPs can look to continue to preserve the balance held in these accounts which will lead to improved access to Centrelink benefits in the future. This will depend on the ability to replace these pension payments from other sources.

Changes to co-contribution levels

In November 2011, the Government announced that it will halve the matching rate (currently \$1 co-contribution for \$1 voluntary non-concessional contribution up to a maximum amount) and halve the maximum co-contribution payment (currently \$1,000 which was recently reduced from \$1,500). What this means is that the Government will halve the co-contribution matching rate to 50 cents for every dollar contributed, and the maximum co-contribution payment will fall to \$500. In other words, eligible Australians who contribute up to \$1,000 in non-concessional contributions will receive a maximum co-contribution of \$500.

Strategy Thoughts

Making a personal contribution to access the government co-contribution remains a worthwhile strategy for those who are eligible. However, eligibility has been tightened due to the non-indexation of the income threshold and the reduction in co-contribution amounts.

Superannuation guarantee rate to progressively rise

The superannuation guarantee rate will progressively increase from 9 to 12 per cent, from 1 July 2013 to 1 July 2019.

Maximum age limit for the superannuation guarantee to be abolished

The maximum age limit for the superannuation guarantee will be abolished, to increase incentives for workers aged 70 and over to remain in the workforce and further boost retirement savings.

Strategy Thoughts

There is now another small incentive for those who want to keep working past age 70.

Low income superannuation boost

Workers earning up to \$37,000 will get a boost of up to \$500 to their superannuation savings from 1 July 2012.

Allowances & supplements to reduce the impact of the introduction of a price on carbon

Clean Energy Supplement

Assistance will be provided to people who receive payments such as the Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment, Newstart Allowance and Family Tax Benefit through increases in these payments.

The introduction of the carbon price is expected to result in a one-off increase in household prices of 0.7 per cent in 2012/13. In order to ensure low-income households are able to cover the expected price impact, most government payments will be increased by way of a Clean Energy Supplement (CES) by an amount equivalent to 1.7 per cent of the maximum payment rate.

The CES will be similar to the pension supplement, which was introduced in the pension reforms in September 2009. Like the pension supplement, the CES will be indexed separately to the pension, twice annually but only in relation to the Consumer Price Index and not the other pension indexation mechanisms.

The CES will be paid fortnightly, in addition to the basic rate of pension payable. The first payment will be payable from 20 March 2013, which is after the advance lump-sum payment.

Clean Energy Advance

The Clean Energy Advance (CEA) is a separate up-front lump-sum payment, which will be paid prior to the commencement of the carbon price. The CEA will cover a period of six to 18 months, depending on the type of payment received by the individual and which CEA period applies. The CEA will assist recipients with meeting the additional costs as a result of the carbon price.

The CEA will begin to be paid from May 2012, with most payments being made over the period from 14 May 2012 to 30 June 2012.

Low income supplement

Some low-income households might not receive enough assistance through tax cuts or government payments to offset their expected cost impact under a carbon price. These households will be able to apply for an annual, tax-exempt low income supplement (LIS) of \$300. Eligibility will be based on the individual's income from the previous financial year.

People in low-income households can apply for the LIS through Centrelink. Applicants must make a new claim for the LIS each financial year, and only in the financial year for which the claim is being lodged. The supplement will be paid by Centrelink on an annual basis as a lump sum of \$300 per qualifying individual from 1 July 2012. A person can only receive one payment in a financial year.

Eligibility for the LIS is based on an individual's adjusted taxable income and whether they have received other assistance through tax cuts or benefits. The following income limits will apply:

- \$30,000 for singles without a dependent child
- \$45,000 for couples without a dependent child
- \$60,000 for singles with a dependent child, and
- \$60,000 for couples with a dependent child.

If the individual has received government assistance through one of the other payments or through other welfare payments, they may not be eligible to receive the LIS. Claims for the LIS will be accepted from 1 July 2012.

Families

All families receiving Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A will receive an increase of 1.7 per cent of the maximum annual rate of FTB, via the introduction of the CES. This is worth up to \$110 per child per year. All families receiving FTB Part B will also receive a 1.7 per cent increase in the maximum rate, equating to up to \$69 per family per year.

Extra assistance through the FTB will start with a one-off CEA lump-sum payment in May-June 2012, to cover the first year of the scheme.

Families who are entitled to FTB instalments during the period 14 May to 30 June 2012 will be entitled to the advance if they meet conditions on the determination day.

Some families elect to claim their FTB in a lump sum at the end of the financial year. These families will not have claimed FTB in this period, so will not receive the CEA for 2012/13 until they claim FTB for this year. This could be at the end of the 2012/13 year for lump sum payment of FTB, or at any time during 2012/13 to receive fortnightly instalments of FTB. Families who have previously received FTB as a lump sum can claim FTB as fortnightly instalments at any time. If they wish to receive their CEA in May/June 2012 at the same time as instalment recipients, they will need to claim FTB as fortnightly instalments prior to May 2012.

Single income family supplement

The single income family supplement of up to \$300 may be paid to single-income families with a qualifying child. This supplement may be paid where the primary income earner (if a member of a couple, the person with the highest taxable income) has taxable income between \$68,000 and \$150,000 per annum.

If the claimant is a member of a couple, and their spouse is a low-income earner, reductions to the rate payable may apply based on the lower income earner's taxable income.

A qualifying child includes:

- an FTB child (a child for whom the person receives FTB) who has not been absent from Australia for more than 13 weeks, or
- a child who has not been absent from Australia for more than 13 weeks and who would be an FTB child except that the child (or someone on the child's behalf) is receiving an 'at home' rate of one of a number specified payments.

The first payments of the single income family supplement are expected to be made from 1 July 2013.

Pensioners

The CES will provide pensioners with assistance equivalent to a 1.7 per cent increase in the maximum rate of the pension; this is an increase of up to \$338 for singles and \$510 for couples (combined) per year.

Pensioners will also receive a separate CEA, which will be paid as an up-front and tax exempt lump-sum payment of up to \$250 for a single and \$380 for couples (combined). This payment will be provided to pensioners in May-June 2012 to help meet additional costs for the nine months from 1 July 2012 to when the first instalment of the new CES is paid from March 2013.

Pensioners who will receive this increase include recipients of the Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment, Service Pension and Wife Pension. The payments will be made automatically and pensioners do not need to lodge a special application.

Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC) holders

Assistance to CSHC holders will be delivered through a CEA, which will be paid as an up-front lump-sum payment of \$250 for a single person and \$380 per couple (combined). This payment will be provided to eligible seniors in May-June 2012 to help meet additional costs for the nine months from 1 July 2012.

From March 2013 assistance will be delivered as a separate CES and will be paid quarterly at the same time as the seniors supplement. Self-funded retirees in low-income households who do not receive sufficient assistance through the tax or transfer system may be eligible for the annual LIS of \$300 from 1 July 2012.

Summary of major strategy considerations

In a nutshell these are the possible strategy modifications arising from this year's budget:

- Those in the workforce who are 50 or older to reconsider salary sacrifice strategies to ensure that concessional contributions in excess of \$25,000 are not made and how to be prepare to make the most of increased contribution thresholds come July 2014.
- Those earning more than \$300,000 of income to consider whether superannuation contributions need to be lifted to replace the extra tax payable on concessional contributions.
- Non-residents to take extra care in the disposal of assets with realisable capital gains.
- Salary sacrifice strategies to be re-assessed under the new marginal tax threshold levels and rates.
- Personal superannuation contributions in order to access the government co-contribution need to be re-assessed in light of the changed thresholds and rate.
- Those turning 70 to consider the benefits of the continued superannuation guarantee contributions.
- Continued consideration of pension payment draw downs if looking to draw only the minimum allowed.
- Small business owners to consider the timing of discretionary capital purchases.

Concluding Comments

Overall the budget has provided some significant changes in terms of personal finance outcomes especially for those who are working and 50 years of age or older. This unfortunately has the potential to further undermine the confidence we all have that the superannuation system rules will not change for the worse in years to come.

Even so, the government has not tampered with the tax free status of draw downs from superannuation accumulation or pension accounts for those 60 years and older. They have also left alone the tax free status of income generated by superannuation assets whilst in pension phase.

Investing through superannuation to provide for retirement therefore remains a very effective strategy with:

- Compulsory employer contributions
- Tax advantaged contributions and earnings through the accumulation stage, albeit at reduced levels
- Tax free superannuation withdrawals after the age of 60
- Income received tax free whilst in pension phase
- Minimal rules for withdrawing superannuation

Changes to the marginal income tax rates and thresholds also provide some cash flow relief for those earning less than \$80,000 per annum. However whether this is enough to offset the impact of setting a price on carbon will need to be analysed.

If you would like to discuss any of the details contained in the budget and how those details impact your situation please do not hesitate to be in contact.

This document has been prepared as a brief summary of the 2011 Federal Budget as it impacts on personal finances. It is a publication of A Clear Direction Financial Planning. It contains general financial information. Readers should check this information with a professional financial adviser before acting on any of the material contained in this document.