

## Preparing your business for 2012



Around the world, we are regularly hearing about the ongoing financial disorder in Europe and the struggling American economy.

This, coupled with Australia's attempts to escape the turbulence, leaves little doubt that 2012 will be a difficult year both for businesses and for Australian families.

Already we've seen many of our banks go against the Reserve Bank and raise interest rates at the beginning of this

month and news bulletins are continually announcing job cuts and a two speed economy here in Australia.

In light of the financial forecast for 2012 businesses should be looking to prepare themselves and position their finances in a way that ensures survival during these turbulent times.

The first step in this process is making an appointment with your accountant to run through the financial operations of the business to ensure each component is well placed.

At Desborough we can assist with business planning, business set up, taxation, audits, superannuation, financial reporting, business activity statements and much more. Perhaps now is the time to seek help to minimise business costs, review your cash management control procedures and to look at the cost of maintaining staff during these times.

To make an appointment with your Desborough Accountant, please call us on 9226 2039.

## Warning on cyber crime

The State Government recently issued a reminder to small business owners about the importance of protecting themselves against cyber crime which could affect the day to day operations of their business.

A report was released earlier this month from the Australian Institute of Criminology into cyber threats faced by small businesses in Australia.

The report identifies the most common cyber threats facing small business and outlines ways to combat them.

Attorney-General Nicola Roxon acknowledged that most small businesses cannot operate without the internet and she then emphasised the importance of protection.

"It's important small businesses can identify threats and can put in place measures to protect themselves and their customers," she said.

To help protect against cyber attacks, small businesses can take the following actions:

- Install security patches to fix vulnerabilities in computer programs
- Install firewalls to provide a barrier between computers and the internet to protect them from unauthorised access
- Businesses trading on-line can offer a secure site for customers to enter personal information to authenticate data with a digital certificate
- Introduce staff internet usage policies and security awareness training
- Improve physical security of computers and servers like keeping servers in secure rooms

The full report is available at [www.aic.gov.au](http://www.aic.gov.au)



## Expanding Kalamunda

Clients currently utilising the Kalamunda office will soon see some exciting and significant changes making our office bigger in size and able to accommodate more staff to assist clients with their accounting needs.

The planned changes will be operational in March and will make Desborough Accountants more and more accessible to the local Kalamunda community.

Desborough has been part of the local Kalamunda community for more than 23 years now and we are excited to reposition the organisation in a way that can allow us to accommodate a growing community.



## Dates to remember

**Wednesday 21st March**  
February 2012 monthly activity statements - final date for lodgement and payment.

**Saturday 28 April**  
Quarter 3 (January - March 2012) activity statements - final date for lodgement and payment.

**Saturday 28 April**  
Last day for superannuation guarantee contributions to be made to a superannuation provider for quarter 3 2011-12 (1 January - 31 March).

## Questions for your accountant

How much net profit is my business making?

What can I do to improve my cash flow?

How is my business positioned and will it survive in 2012?

How does my business compare with my competitors?