

Thank you for engaging us to attend to the administration and taxation requirements for your Self-managed Super Fund.

These are the Terms of Engagement ("Terms"). This Agreement is constituted by these Terms and any other later document that we advise you becomes part of or varies this Agreement. These Terms confirm our understanding of the nature and the limitations of the services we will provide.

## **PURPOSE, SCOPE AND OUTPUT OF ENGAGEMENT**

Our firm will provide Accounting and other professional services, which will be conducted in accordance with the relevant professional and ethical standards issued by the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board Limited (APESB). The extent of our procedures and services will be limited exclusively for this purpose only. As a result, no audit or review will be performed and, accordingly, no assurance will be expressed. Our engagement cannot be relied upon to disclose irregularities including fraud, other illegal acts and errors that may exist. However, we will inform you of any such matters that come to our attention.

## **RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR WORK**

Over the years our firm has established a cost-effective structure, incorporating a Team of Professional Accountants and Assistants to provide you with an economical service.

When dealing with your affairs many general administration and basic accounting problems may be handled by our team, which will allow Directors to be available for telephone advice, consulting, and other more complex issues.

The Directors oversee your affairs and are ultimately responsible for all the matters relating to your file.

Team members attend to certain functions relating to your affairs. This is done to afford you the most cost-effective service possible.

Of course, all work attended to by the team is supervised and reviewed by Directors and Senior Managers.

## **RELATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

The conduct of this engagement will be carried out in accordance with the standards and ethical requirements of The Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia, and The Institute for Public Accountants (hereafter 'The Institute'), which means that information acquired by us in the course of the engagement is subject to strict confidentiality requirements. We will not disclose any information relating to your affairs to any third party without your consent, unless required by law.

You may provide us with permission to disclose your confidential information in certain circumstances, or place conditions on the disclosure of certain confidential information. If you do so, we will have permission to disclose the relevant information accordingly, in the performance of our services, unless you instruct us otherwise in writing.

Our files may, however, be subject to review as part of the quality control review program of The Institute, who monitor compliance with professional standards by its members. We advise that by signing this agreement you acknowledge that, if requested, our files relating to this engagement may be made available under this program. Should this occur, we will advise you prior to releasing any files.

We may on occasion use external contractors and/or third parties to undertake some of the work on your file and they may have access to our information. This will only be done if strict confidentiality agreements are entered into between us and the associated entities to prevent any unauthorised use of this information.

The indicative charge rates and levels of experience of the team providing you with your Professional Accounting Service are set out on the last page of this agreement.

We may also provide your information to our associated entities for services that we believe will be of value to you.

Once again, this will only be done if strict confidentiality agreements are entered into between us and the associated entities to prevent any unauthorised use of this information.

## OTHER INSTITUTE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Institute has determined minimum standards with regards to service and, in accordance with those recommendations, our practice:

- a) uses properly trained and supervised staff to maintain quality standards and ensures that all qualified staff undertake a minimum of 40 hours of continuing professional education each year;
- b) maintains professional independence at all times;
- c) establishes and operates satisfactory quality control procedures;
- d) bases our fees on the chargeable time of each staff member;
- e) records all time to enable you to be aware of the extent of the work performed for you; and
- f) will, if requested, provide an estimate of our billing prior to the commencement of an engagement.

## YOUR OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS

We are required to advise you of your rights and obligations where we are acting for you on taxation matters. In relation to the taxation services provided:

- It is your obligation to provide us with all information that you reasonably expect will be necessary to allow us to perform work contemplated under this engagement within a timely manner or as requested. This includes providing accurate and complete responses to questions asked of you by us within a reasonable timeframe. Inaccurate, incomplete or late information could have a material effect on our services and/or our conclusions and may result in additional fees. We will not verify the underlying accuracy or completeness of information you provide to us.
- You are also required to advise us on a timely basis if there are any changes to your circumstances that may be relevant to the performance of our services. Specifically, if any subsequent event results in the information you provided to us being inaccurate, incomplete or misleading, then you are obliged to advise us as soon as possible. We take no responsibility to the extent that our advice is inaccurate, incomplete or misleading because it is

based on inaccurate, incomplete or misleading information being provided to us.

- By accepting the terms of this agreement, you will be taken to have agreed that the performance of our services is dependent on the performance of your obligations relating to disclosure and record-keeping.
- *The Taxation Administration Act 1953* contains specific provisions that may provide you with 'safe harbours' from administrative penalties for incorrect or late lodgement of Returns if, amongst other things, you give us 'all relevant taxation information' in a timely manner (the safe harbour provisions apply from 1 March 2010). Accordingly, it is to your advantage that all relevant information is disclosed to us as any failure by you to provide this information may affect your ability to rely on the 'safe harbour' provisions and will be taken into account in determining the extent to which we have discharged our obligations to you.
- You are also required to advise us if you become aware of any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest. Generally, a conflict of interest is any event which may result in us becoming unable to remain objective in the performance of our services to you. Some examples of events which could give rise to a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest during this engagement are changes to your business circumstances, events affecting your family (e.g. death and/or marriage breakdown) or a legal action commencing against you.
- You are subject to the self-assessment system in relation to any of your Income Tax Returns. The Commissioner is entitled to rely on any statements made in your Income Tax Returns. If an answer or any statement made on a Return or attached schedule appears to be incorrect, incomplete or misleading, and where those statements are later found to be incorrect (even if the error was made unintentionally), the Commissioner may amend your Income Tax Assessment and, in addition to any tax assessed, you may also be liable for penalties and interest charges.

- You have an obligation to keep records that will substantiate the Taxation Returns prepared and which will satisfy the substantiation requirements of the *Income Tax Assessment Act*. This documentation must be retained for a minimum of 5 years and you must ensure you retain all the documentation in a safe and secure place in case the Australian Taxation Office wishes to review these documents. Failure to keep such records could result in claims being disallowed, additional tax being imposed, and the imposition of penalty and/or general interest charges. In more serious cases, prosecution may be instituted under the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* and fines imposed by Courts, if convicted.
- You are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information required to comply with the various Taxation Laws. We will use this information supplied in the preparation of your Returns. The following needs to be considered to ensure correctness of each Income Tax Return:
  - that income from all sources has been disclosed;
  - that all deductions claimed can be justified;
  - that all deductions claimed for work, car and travel expenses can be substantiated;
  - that all statements are correct and complete.
  - that every sale of property, of any description, should be considered for the possible application of both income tax and capital gains tax. The world-wide income of Australian resident taxpayers is now taxable in Australia with a credit allowed for income tax paid in a foreign country on that income.
- Your rights as a taxpayer include:
  - The right to seek a Private Ruling;
  - The right to object to an assessment by the Commissioner;
  - The right to appeal against an adverse decision by the Commissioner.

Certain time limitations may exist for you to exercise these rights. Should you wish to exercise these rights at any time, you should contact us so that we can provide you with the relevant timeframes and to discuss any additional requirements which may exist.

## OUR OBLIGATION

We have a duty to act in your best interests. However, the duty to act in your best interests is subject to an overriding obligation to comply with the law, even if that may require us to act in a manner that may be contrary to your interests. For example, we could not lodge an income tax return for you that we knew to be false in a material respect.

We also have an obligation to ensure that we manage conflicts of interest as they arise. In this regard, we have arrangements in place to ensure that we manage potential or actual conflicts of interest. The effective operation of these arrangements depends, in part, on you complying with your obligation to disclose any potential conflicts of interest to us.

Unless otherwise stated, this opinion is based on the Australian Tax Law in force at the date of the provision of the advice and/or services. It is your responsibility to seek updated advice if you intend to rely on our advice at a later stage, due to frequent changes made to Australian Tax Law.

## OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS

All original documents obtained from you arising from this engagement will remain your property. However, we reserve the right to make a reasonable number of copies of the original documents for our records.

Our engagement will result in the production of Income Tax Returns and Financial Statements. Ownership of these documents will vest in you.

All other documents produced by us in respect of this engagement will remain our property.

We have a policy of exploring a legal right of lien over any of your documents in our possession in the event of a dispute between us. We have also established dispute resolution processes, details of which are available on request.

## LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

Our liability may be limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation. Further information on the scheme is available from the Professional Standards Council at

<http://www.professionalstandardscouncil.gov.au/>

## **REVIEW AND PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

As and when required throughout the year we will review your records and where applicable process certain data to enable the preparation of Interim and End of Year Financial Statements. The Financial Statements will be based on the information you provide to us and other information that our office accesses. As a result:

- You and your employees are responsible for the maintenance of the accounting systems and internal controls for your business entities. That includes the keeping and maintenance of all required books of account.
- Our firm is not being engaged to conduct a statutory audit of the financial records of any of your business entities and we will not express an Auditor's opinion as to the truth and fairness of the Financial Statements (unless otherwise specifically requested to do so).
- Our reports will be prepared for distribution to proprietors for the purpose noted above. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on our report to any person other than the proprietor and for any purpose other than for which it was prepared. Our reports will contain a "Compilation Report" to this effect.

## **PREPARATION & LODGEMENT OF INCOME TAX RETURNS**

We will prepare and lodge all Income Tax Returns based on the Financial Statements prepared, as well as information you provide to us in relation to your business and personal tax affairs. We are required to prepare detailed workpapers which must be retained on our files for producing to the ATO if required at a future date for client audit or review purposes.

We are required by the *Tax Agents Services Act 2009* to satisfy ourselves as to the reasonableness of the information and claims being made in your Income Tax Returns. The Legislation provides the basis for this and may require us to make further enquiries with you from time to time in relation to your Taxation Returns. Where possible, we will endeavour to identify the information that will be required in advance.

We are entitled to rely on the records provided as being both accurate and complete.

We will have your Income Tax Returns lodged on time, as required by the Australian Taxation Office, provided we are in receipt of all information to prepare your Returns no later than two months prior to the due date for lodgement. This avoids the delays that generally occur in our Firm just prior to lodgement dates.

We will take all possible steps to have your Returns lodged on time, however we offer no guarantee unless we have received the information within the abovementioned timeframe.

We also advise that we are legally prevented from electronically lodging your Income Tax Returns until such time as we receive a signed Declaration back in our office to do so.

When Returns are left to the last minute, due to time constraints it may not be possible to have them forwarded to you for signature and a signed Declaration back in our office to enable lodgement by the due date.

Whilst we exercise due care in preparing your Returns from information supplied to us, the provisions of the *Income Tax Assessment Act* place the responsibility for the contents of the Returns (including the necessary substantiation records provided to us) with the taxpayer.

## **CORPORATE AFFAIRS MATTERS**

There are various requirements of the Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC) that must be adhered to in relation to Companies that you may be involved with. This includes notifying ASIC of various changes to the details of Directors and Shareholders, preparation, and lodgement of Annual Company Statements etc.

We will prepare and lodge the appropriate documents in relation to matters that affect your company as soon as practical after being provided with the information. These will be forwarded to you for signature prior to lodgement. Many of these documents must be lodged within a short period of time after the change occurs.



In this regard, documents not returned to our office by the due date will incur additional lodgement fees and/or additional processing fees. You will be advised of relevant due dates for lodgement.

The Corporate Affairs Division of our practice utilises an electronic recording system to keep track of all company data. It is not possible to maintain the integrity of this system if documents are lodged by other means. We are still required to input the details of a change into our electronic system. In this regard, we must be informed of any changes or matters that may affect your companies.

## **BUSINESS ACTIVITY STATEMENTS AND INSTALMENT ACTIVITY STATEMENTS**

Should we be instructed by you, we will prepare and lodge the appropriate BAS and IAS as and when required on a quarterly or monthly basis as soon as practical after being provided with the information to do so. At present, the deadline for lodgement of these documents is the 28th day after the end of each quarter (for quarterly lodgers). However, as Tax Agents, we are given a further four (4) week extension, but this must be lodged through our Tax Agent system.

If we are not provided with the information by the 14th day of the particular lodgement month, we will not be able to guarantee that we will have the above Statements lodged on time. This is due to the extraordinary level of work imposed by the Australian Taxation Office on our Firm during the two weeks prior to lodgement dates.

If the information is provided later than the 14th day of the said month, we will endeavour to have the documents lodged by the due date, however we offer no guarantees, and penalties for late lodgement may be imposed (subject to extensions that may be provided by the Australian Taxation Office from time to time).

## **SPECIFIC MATTERS TO BE RESEARCHED**

From time to time you may request advice from us which may not be able to be provided immediately, due to the issues and facts to be considered.

With the complexity of the superannuation legislation and regulations, the magnitude of the

Taxation Laws which we must consider, as well as other non-taxation issues, it may not be possible to provide you with an immediate answer.

We will endeavour to provide you with an immediate and quick answer where appropriate, however to ensure that you receive a professional service and accurate advice a more detailed investigation into the facts may be required.

## **AUTHORITY TO ACT ON YOUR BEHALF WITH THE ATO**

There are a number of functions we are required to carry out on your behalf with the Australian Taxation Office and in particular the following accounts for you and your associated entities:

- Income Tax Account
- Integrated Client Account
- BAS Roles

This Agreement allows us to act on your behalf – to make various changes as they arise, update communication preferences, and lodge documents which have been appropriately signed by an authorised signatory.

## **USE OF SOFTWARE**

We may use software and other electronic tools in providing our services. If we provide you with access to these programs, you acknowledge that they are not your property, were developed for our purposes and without consideration of any purpose for which you might use them. We make no representations or warranties as to the sufficiency or appropriateness of the information contained therein.

## **TELEPHONE & EMAIL ADVICE**

Telephone and email communications and advice are recorded in writing on your file for quality assurance and professional indemnity insurance purposes. We encourage you to telephone or email us for advice on matters of concern. However simple, the advice may save you significant time and money.

Our fees are based on time, which includes telephone calls and email correspondence. Time spent by our team in relation to these matters will be recorded on

your WIP and may be billed to you at the discretion of the partner in charge.

## **PRINCIPLES OF DETERMINING FEE LEVELS**

The Institute recommends that its members conform to prescribed guidelines in determining fee levels. The Institute does not issue a standard scale of professional fees due to the diversity of services offered by Accountants and the degree of skill attached to those services. Additionally, the Institute does not intervene between an Accountant and client on the question of professional fees charged. However, the Institute has issued guidelines for establishing fee levels to ensure that, on the one hand you are fairly charged and, on the other, that our firm is remunerated appropriately for the services we perform for you.

The charge-out rates applied to the time incurred take account of staff salaries, direct costs associated with providing the service, and indirect costs associated with operating our practice. These rates are reviewed on a periodic basis.

Special services, such as unusual audit and investigation assignments, management advisory services, and the need to provide these services at little or no prior notice, requires us to ensure we have the available staff with the necessary qualifications to handle all challenges that we may face.

With ever changing taxation and other laws, we are required to undertake significant education and training programs to ensure that we have the ability to provide you with the right advice. On many occasions (due to the ever changing laws), it is a necessity that specialist research will be undertaken on particular matters that pertain to your file. A clear record of this time is maintained.

The manner in which we monitor the work carried out for you is based on the time we spend in relation to your affairs. This is the same as many other professionals charge for the services they provide. The time is recorded in 'Time Records' we keep for you and when the job is completed, we use this as a guide to determine your fees. While we are required to record all time, it does not mean we will bill you for that time.

The only commodity we have to sell is our knowledge and ability to perform accounting functions on your behalf. Therefore, to ensure an equitable remuneration to our Firm for the services we provide, an efficient record is maintained of time spent on your file.

We do not necessarily bill you for all the time that is allocated to your file, but the recording system does provide us with a guide as to the amount of time we have utilised in providing you with the highest quality service possible.

## **FEES**

HFB Super Pty Ltd processes super funds on a daily basis, with interim invoices issued on a quarterly basis, for work completed the previous quarter.

For additional compliance work, outside the scope of end of financial year processing, we issue invoices to you for the work that is carried out. The interim invoices also exclude any outlays paid on your behalf to suppliers, such as Audit, Actuarial and Title Searches.

Our Fees are based on the nature and complexity of the work involved, level of experience and expertise required, degree of responsibility applicable to the work, inherent risks associated with the service and the expected time required.

## **CREDIT TERMS**

Our credit terms are strictly 14 days from invoice.

We issue statements on a monthly basis for amounts outstanding at the end of the month.

## **DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS**

Under the current Corporations Law, you are required to retain your records (in a safe and secure place) for a minimum of five years. This includes keeping original documentation to verify expenditure claimed.

After this five-year period our office will confidentially dispose of these old files, being workpapers and correspondence files.

If you would like your records returned to you in this regard, please notify our office when returning your acceptance.

## **AUTHORITY TO RELEASE INFORMATION**

By acknowledging this Engagement Agreement, you authorise any third party to release information relating to the financial affairs of your SMSF to HFB Group. This may include (but is not limited to) bank, investment, insurance, superannuation and property information and statements.

## **REFERRALS**

Our firm may refer you to an external service provider where we believe them to be a good fit for you and in no way do we do this with the expectation of the referral of clients or work from the said provider in return.

Some service providers may in return refer clients to our firm – we do not however accept any referral fees or commission.

Please note that it is up to you to determine if the provider is suitable for your needs.

## **Our Team**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Shona Sherman	Director
Danielle Barrow	Senior Associate

## **Associated Entities**

HFB Super Strategies Pty Ltd  
HFB Accounting Pty Ltd  
HFB Advisory Pty Ltd  
HFB Private Wealth Pty Ltd  
HFB Services Pty Ltd

## **Team of Associated Entity Directors**

Tim Davis  
Shona Sherman  
Samantha Sheriff  
Joshua McDade  
Michael Barlow

## **TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS – INDICATIVE CHARGE RATES**

Director	\$400 - \$500
Senior Accountant	\$250 - \$400
Accountant	\$150 - \$250
Undergraduate	\$130 - \$150
Administration Support	\$120

The rates (excluding GST) are those applicable as at the date of the Engagement Agreement.

They may change from time to time based on the changes in our firm costs (in particular Annual Wage and Rental increases) and the skill level of various team members as and when they undertake further studies.

## **ENTITIES PROVIDING SERVICE**

Full details of our Legal Structure are as follows:

### **HFB Super Pty Ltd**

HFB Super Pty Ltd ABN: 66 600 231 089  
Tax Agent Number: 24 805 931

## CONFIRMATION OF ENGAGEMENT

Obviously, there are many issues to consider in this engagement and we ask that you consider all aspects of this agreement to ensure you are satisfied with the scope of our engagement. Please contact us if you have any questions about this agreement.

Once you are satisfied with the terms of our engagement, would you please sign and date this agreement.

As mentioned above, if you do not return this Engagement Agreement signed, nor contact us with changes to the engagement, yet continue to provide us with information and instructions regarding your financial affairs, the terms and information provided in this agreement will bind us both.

We are delighted for the opportunity to provide accounting and taxation services to you and your business and we look forward to continuing our close working relationship with you for many years to come.

**I acknowledge that I have read and understand the terms of the engagement and hereby accept them.**

Dated this 15 day of May 20 23

Signature R. Mathews

Raelee Mathews

Print Name

SMSF Name:

RI Gorrington Superannuation Fund