

A portrait of Andrew Douglas, a middle-aged man with short grey hair and blue eyes, wearing a dark blue pinstriped suit jacket over a white shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

GET READY FOR TOUGH NEW OH&S LAWS

**Andrew Douglas,
Macpherson+Kelley Lawyers**

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Chartered Accountants Business in Focus

Monthly audio program

December 2011 / January 2012

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Here we are, December again! And what a year it has been, for many of us much tougher than we'd anticipated back at the start of 2011. We should have heeded the warnings of regular economist Neville Norman, who talked back then about dark clouds, slowing growth, debt problems overseas and policy uncertainties at home. Does that sound familiar? In this edition, Neville reviews the economic forces that have determined our prospects this year and where they'll leave us as we head into 2012.

January marks the start of some significant new occupational health and safety laws. Listen carefully to lawyer, author and commentator Andrew Douglas to understand what they're all about. And then take note of more laws coming our way concerning the protection of business assets. Lawyer James Berman says the starting date for the Personal Property Security Act is likely to be May, but all businesses need to be aware of the law and start preparing, and accountants will be in the driving seat.

Then there are tax audits. All accountants know how time-consuming they can be. And increased activity by the ATO means they're on the rise. In this edition, Grant Keys of Accountancy Insurance suggests that tax audit insurance is one way to offset the extra expenses involved. From that topic, we turn to career development and the soft skills you'll need to develop a successful career as an accounting professional - skills like the ability to communicate well, to negotiate, to work in a team. All is explained by Phillip Guest of Michael Page International.

We present our regular tax and sharemarket updates, Tim Molloy of MYOB discusses the importance of an online presence for everyone in business, and we end with the inspirational story of Jan Vydra and Australian Fresh Leaf Herbs. It's astonishing what a business can achieve with determination, a fresh perspective and innovative thinking.

Enjoy our December 2011 / January 2011 edition, and from us all at Business Essentials, we would like to wish you a safe and happy festive season and, of course, a prosperous start to 2012.

Nick Schildberger
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2011 ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

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GET READY FOR TOUGH NEW OH&S LAWS

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WHEN BUSINESSES GO ONLINE

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