

**No. 49471**

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**Australia  
and  
Vanuatu**

**Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu on the exchange of information with respect to taxes. Devonport, 21 April 2010**

**Entry into force:** *1 September 2011 by notification, in accordance with article 13*

**Authentic text:** *English*

**Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations:** *Australia, 6 March 2012*

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**Australie  
et  
Vanuatu**

**Accord entre le Gouvernement de l'Australie et le Gouvernement de la République du Vanuatu relatif à l'échange de renseignements en matière fiscale. Devonport, 21 avril 2010**

**Entrée en vigueur :** *1<sup>er</sup> septembre 2011 par notification, conformément à l'article 13*

**Texte authentique :** *anglais*

**Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies :** *Australie, 6 mars 2012*

[ ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS ]

AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
AND  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU  
ON THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES

The Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu,

Desiring to facilitate the exchange of information with respect to taxes,

Have agreed as follows:

## **ARTICLE 1**

### **OBJECT AND SCOPE OF THIS AGREEMENT**

The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall provide assistance through exchange of information that is foreseeably relevant to the administration and enforcement of the domestic laws of those States concerning taxes covered by this Agreement. Such information shall include information that is foreseeably relevant to the determination, assessment and collection of such taxes, the recovery and enforcement of tax claims, or the investigation or prosecution of tax matters. Information shall be exchanged in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and shall be treated as confidential in the manner provided in Article 8. The rights and safeguards secured to persons by the laws or administrative practice of the Requested State remain applicable. The Requested State shall use its best endeavours to ensure that any such rights and safeguards are not applied in a manner that unduly prevents or delays effective exchange of information.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **JURISDICTION**

A Requested State is not obligated to provide information which is neither held by its authorities nor in the possession or control of persons who are within its territorial jurisdiction.

### ARTICLE 3

#### TAXES COVERED

- 1 The existing taxes which are the subject of this Agreement are:
  - (a) in Australia, taxes of every kind and description imposed under federal laws administered by the Commissioner of Taxation; and
  - (b) in Vanuatu, taxes of every kind and description imposed under the Laws of Vanuatu and administered by the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue.
- 2 This Agreement shall also apply to any identical or substantially similar taxes imposed after the date of signature of this Agreement in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The Agreement shall also apply to such other taxes as may be agreed in an exchange of letters between the Contracting States. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any substantial changes to the taxation and related information gathering measures covered by this Agreement.
- 3 This Agreement shall not apply to taxes imposed by states, municipalities, or other political subdivisions, or possessions of a Contracting State.

### ARTICLE 4

#### DEFINITIONS

- 1 For the purposes of this Agreement, unless otherwise defined:
  - (a) the term "Applicant State" means the Contracting State requesting information;
  - (b) the term "Australia", when used in a geographical sense, excludes all external territories other than:
    - (i) the Territory of Norfolk Island;
    - (ii) the Territory of Christmas Island;

- (iii) the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands;
- (iv) the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands;
- (v) the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands; and
- (vi) the Coral Sea Islands Territory,

and includes any area adjacent to the territorial limits of Australia (including the Territories specified in this subparagraph) in respect of which there is for the time being in force, consistently with international law, a law of Australia dealing with the exploration for or exploitation of any of the natural resources of the exclusive economic zone or the seabed and subsoil of the continental shelf;

- (c) the term "Vanuatu" means the Republic of Vanuatu and includes any area outside the territorial waters of the Republic of Vanuatu which has been or may hereafter be designated under the laws of Vanuatu concerning the Exclusive Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf, as an area within which the Republic of Vanuatu may exercise such sovereign rights and jurisdiction as are in conformity with international law;
- (d) the term "collective investment fund or scheme" means any pooled investment vehicle, irrespective of legal form. The term "public collective investment fund or scheme" means any collective investment fund or scheme provided the units, shares or other interests in the fund or scheme can be readily purchased, sold or redeemed by the public. Units, shares or other interests in the fund or scheme can be readily purchased, sold or redeemed "by the public" if the purchase, sale or redemption is not implicitly or explicitly restricted to a limited group of investors;
- (e) the term "company" means any body corporate or any entity that is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
- (f) the term "competent authority" means in the case of Australia, the Commissioner of Taxation or an authorised representative of the Commissioner and, in the case of Vanuatu, the Minister of Finance or his authorised representative;