



## AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPERS APPOINTS TAX AND INDUSTRY SPECIALIST

Melbourne, August 21 2006:- The Australian Association of Professional Bookkeepers Ltd (AAPB), the pre-eminent industry body for bookkeepers in Australia has appointed taxation and accounting industry specialist Maria Benardis to the role of Technical Advocacy.

"We are very pleased to have an industry professional of Maria's calibre join AAPB", said AAPB Chairperson, Damian Benson. "Maria has over fifteen years experience in legal and accounting professional service firms and has developed the respect of the ATO and the finance industry. She will be a great asset to AAPB as we continue to work closely with Federal and State Governments and industry on issues affecting the bookkeeping industry."

Prior to joining AAPB, Ms. Benardis worked with leading legal and accounting firms including: Westpac Financial Services, KPMG, Mallesons Stephen Jaques, The Australian Institute of Company Directors, The Taxation Institute of Australia and The Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Maria has sat on various ATO, Industry and Government Committees to review and comment on key tax legislation. These include the ATO's Tax Practitioner Forum, National Tax Liaison Group - GST subcommittee, National Tax Liaison Group – Fringe Benefits Tax subcommittee, Accounting Working Group, Lodgement Working Party, Audit Compliance Working Group and the Bookkeeping Industry Advisory Group

Maria holds a Diploma in Business (Accounting) and degrees in Bachelor of Business (UTS) and a Master of Taxation (UTS). She is also a Fellow of the Taxation Institute of Australia and has written many articles and business management related manuals for various publications and organizations including the Institute of Chartered Accountants and The Taxation Institute of Australia.

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### About AAPB

The Australian Association of Professional Bookkeepers Ltd (AAPB) is the pre-eminent industry body for bookkeepers in Australia. AAPB sets professional standards, educates members to improve skills and industry standards and works with Federal and State Governments on issues directly affecting members and the bookkeeping industry. Further information is available at [www.aapb.org.au](http://www.aapb.org.au)

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