

Industry Engagement update – Tranche 2 – Legal Sector – 30 January 2026

Update overview:

Welcome to 2026 | Key dates

Below is a refresher of the key dates that will be most significant for you and your members in the year ahead.

- End of January 2026 - Program starter kits released
- 31 March 2026 - Enrolment opens for Tranche 2 entities
- 31 March 2026 - AML/CTF obligations commence for current reporting entities and newly regulated virtual asset service providers*
- 1 July 2026 - AML/CTF obligations commence for Tranche 2 entities

Further information on what's coming soon to help you can be found [here](#) on our website.

**Current as of 30 January 2026, pending transitional rules formalisation*

AML Reforms update

Earlier today, you and your members may have received an email about the release of AML/CTF program starter kits. The AML/CTF program starter kits (starter kits) for newly regulated businesses are now published on our website. These resources are designed to support your members to prepare for the new AML/CTF laws which will apply from 1 July 2026.

These starter kits are a global-first in supporting newly regulated businesses prepare for regulation. These resources are designed to help small tranche 2 businesses reduce the time, cost and effort involved in developing an AML/CTF program.

The starter kits set out practical, step-by-step actions businesses can take to build their program. They function as a means to create a complete AML/CTF program for small, typical tranche 2 businesses and reduce the need for external investment or consultancy. They are not one-size fits all. They are a customisable, self-serve

approach which builds an AML/CTF program suited to your member’s business profile.

Although the starter kits are designed for typical, small tranche 2 businesses, they can also be a useful reference for larger or more complex businesses. Businesses outside the intended starter kit users are highly likely to face different and more complex ML/TF risks than those addressed by the kit. This means that they cannot rely on the starter kit to meet AUSTRAC’s regulatory expectations, instead they may be useful for information purposes. Their risks, processes and policies will require a more detailed program that these starter kits are not designed for. Your AML/CTF program must reflect the size, nature and complexity of your business, and the risks it faces.

You and your members can access the program starter kits and supporting guidance on our website at the links below:

- [Real Estate guidance and program starter kit](#)
- [Accountant guidance and program starter kit](#)
- [Conveyancer guidance and program starter kit](#)
- [Dealers in precious metals, stones and products guidance and program starter kit](#)
- [Legal profession guidance and program starter kit](#)

AML/CTF transitional rules update

The Department of Home Affairs and AUSTRAC are working to finalise transitional rules to support a smooth implementation of the AML/CTF reforms. The transitional rules will allow periods of time for reporting entities to adjust their business and processes to meet certain obligations, while still managing their ML/TF risk.

Over the coming weeks the Department of Home Affairs will publish an exposure draft of the transitional rules. Industry will have an opportunity to provide feedback at this stage. If you have any further questions about the transitional rules, please contact the Department of Home Affairs at economiccrime@homeaffairs.gov.au.

Further details regarding the update to the AML/CTF transitional rules can be found [here](#) on our website.

Enrolling with us

Enrolment for all new designated services will open from 31 March. To learn more about what your members will need to do for this please visit: [Enrol with us \(Reform\)](#) | [AUSTRAC](#). If your members provide any of the designated services coming under AUSTRAC regulation on 1 July 2026, they'll have until 29 July 2026 to enrol.

We'll be sharing more in the coming weeks on what information businesses should begin gathering ahead of enrolment opening.

Education update - New education products

AUSTRAC has published a suite of governance products to support entities to understand and meet their AML/CTF governance obligations.

These resources are intended to provide practical, role-specific guidance to support clear accountability, informed decision-making, and effective AML/CTF governance:

- [AML/CTF governance and oversight factsheet](#)
- [Governance quick guide for governing bodies](#)
- [Governance quick guide for senior managers](#)
- [Governance quick guide for AML/CTF compliance officers](#)
- [Governance quick guide for sole traders and micro businesses](#)

As a new reporting entity your members will be required to develop, maintain, and comply with an AML/CTF program.

To assist entities to do this, we have developed an [AML/CTF Program Quick Guide](#).

This document is a quick guide of the key components of an AML/CTF program and is not exhaustive. It should be read in conjunction with AUSTRAC guidance, relevant program starter kits and the AML/CTF Act and Rules.

Upcoming education

Our Industry Education and Outreach team will be hosting a 'conducting your risk assessment' webinar in February and March 2026.

In this interactive webinar, attendees will learn:

- the purpose of a money laundering and terrorism financing (ML/TF) risk assessment
- key elements of an ML/TF risk assessment, and
- how to identify and assess risks specific to your business/sector.

This webinar is supported by newly published risk assessment framework quick guides that are tailored to each sector. We encourage attendees to bring their quick guide to the webinar to support their participation in activities.

Details of upcoming sessions and links to register can be found on the [Education about reforms webpage](#).

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