



KEN FEHILY, Director, Fehily Advisory

Profile

Ken Fehily has over 20 years of experience specialising in GST in Australia and internationally. He assisted the Australian government write the GST law and advised the ATO on how GST is meant to work to the benefit of businesses. Ken is now one of Australia's most experienced and effective advocates in GST matters.

As a Director of Fehily Advisory, Ken spends much of his time:

- assisting clients to achieve optimal commercial outcomes and GST refund approvals from the ATO
- protecting clients' positions during ATO audits and disputes, contractual negotiations and major deal transactions
- mitigating negative impacts for clients arising from acting on less than optimal GST advice from others.

Ken combines his extensive technical knowledge of GST abilities with considerable experience providing commercial advice on GST matters to help his clients meeting their commercial and statutory needs.

Career Summary

1970s: Bachelor of Economics (Monash University); Australian Taxation Office (Sales Tax Investigation Officer); Price Waterhouse (Melbourne)

1980s: Coopers & Lybrand (Perth); Fehily Loaring (Partner, Indirect Tax Practice) (Perth); Professional Year (Chartered Accountants)

1990s: Arthur Andersen (International Partner, Leader Asia Pacific Indirect Tax Practice); Advisor to Federal Government (Treasurer's GST Technical Advisory Committee)

2000s: PricewaterhouseCoopers (Partner, Leader National GST Practice); Advisor to Australian Taxation Office (Public Rulings Panel)

2010s: Fehily Advisory (Director- GST Client Advocate); Chairperson, Urban Renewal Authority Victoria; Graduate (Australian Institute of Company Directors)

Professional Capabilities

- High level of technical GST abilities, as well as intuitive commercial knowledge impacted by GST
- Understands how to leverage taxation, finance, economic and commercial experience for the benefit of clients in meeting their commercial and statutory responsibilities
- Understands and responds to the competing needs of multiple stakeholders
- Strong financial literacy and ability to understand financial statements, laws and contracts
- Understands and respects the duties of Directors and other professionals

- Has time flexibility to respond to the urgent needs of clients as they arise
- Strong verbal and written communication skills

Ken's technical expertise, approach and business acumen is highly regarded and respected by clients, other professionals and the ATO. He is known for his high level of integrity and honesty in dealing with both public and private sector interests.

Career highlights

- Established, grew and lead successful professional taxation practices at local, national and international levels, in boutique practices through to the Big Four accounting/business advisory firms, at senior Partner level.
- Lead the successful turnaround of an underperforming and unprofitable government agency into a commercially sustainable and profitable agency with the backing of its government stakeholders, regaining private sector confidence.
- Consistently achieves favourable outcomes in ATO contested matters, Court challenges and commercial negotiations, on behalf of clients
- Regularly consulted as part of broader advisory teams on many major transactions, M&A deals, financial securitisations, investments and divestments, contributing to the successful progression of, or strategic withdrawal from, potential deals.
- Assisted and advised the Federal Treasurer (Peter Costello) and the Australian Taxation Office in the successful design and implementation of a new taxation system (Goods and Services Tax) for Australia.
- Successfully lead the largest and most complex GST implementation programs in 2000, including for Australia Post, Visy, Linfox, Orica and parts of the Victorian government.
- Provided strategic advice and assistance, with favourable outcomes, to many Victorian government agencies including those responsible for treasury, health, major projects, housing, planning and major events.
- Lead the effective provision of taxation and other professional services for high profile events, including the Sydney Olympics and Melbourne Commonwealth Games, and their international counterparts.

Qualifications

- Bachelor of Economics (Monash University)
- Graduate, Australian Institute of Company Directors
- Registered Tax Agent

Professional Memberships

- Member, Australian Taxation Office's GST Advisory Group (Representing CPA Australia)
- Fellow, Chartered Accountant
- Fellow, CPA Australia
- Chartered Tax Advisor, Taxation Institute of Australia