



**PRACTICE  
STATEMENT No. 0**

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>FIJI ISLANDS REVENUE AND CUSTOMS AUTHORITY: DEVELOPMENT OF PRACTICE STATEMENTS</b>
<b>DATE OF EFFECT</b>	1 July 2002
<b>CONFIDENTIALITY STATUS</b>	May be released to the public
<b>LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES</b>	<i>Income Tax Act 1974 (Cap. 201)</i> <i>Land Sales Act (Cap. 137)</i> <i>Value Added Tax Decree 1991</i> <i>Gambling Turnover Tax Decree 1991</i> <i>Hotel Turnover Tax Act 2006</i>
<b>PRACTICE CO-ORDINATOR</b>	<b>General Manager - Revenue Collection Division</b>

1. This statement sets out the practice of the Revenue Collection Division (Tax) in relation to the development of Practice Statements. Practice Statements provide the Revenue Collection Division (Tax) view on interpretation of specific provisions of the above laws, such as guidelines for the use of discretionary powers, and requirements for a deduction to be allowed. They are not intended to be private rulings for particular taxpayers, but apply to all taxpayers.
2. The introduction of Practice Statements in mid-2002 gives effect to the Budget announcement in November 2001 that FIRCA will:
 

“... introduce a new ruling system to be implemented next year to improve taxpayer service and provide more certainty with respect to the legislation.”
3. All Practice Statements are issued by the General Manager – Revenue Collection, following a consultative process involving FIRCA staff and external stakeholders such as the Fiji Institute of Accountants. The procedure for development of Practice Statement follows.

4. All proposed Practice Statements are evaluated by the FIRCA Practice Statement Committee, which comprises the General Manager – Revenue Collection Division, National Manager Revenue Collection, Manager Technical, General Manager – Risk and Compliance Division, National Manager Large/International, National Manager Small/Medium, National Manager Debt Management Service/Lodgement Enforcement Unit, National Manager Investigation, Strategic Intelligence and Risk Profile. Either General Managers may be appointed the practice co-ordinator for a particular statement, because it particularly affects the Revenue Collection or Risk and Compliance Division of FIRCA.
5. Any FIRCA officer or external stakeholder can refer an issue for consideration of the Practice Statement Committee.
6. If the Practice Statement Committee decides to take up the issue, the Practice Co-ordinator will issue a draft Practice Statement (un-numbered) or have a senior officer prepare it. The draft Practice Statement will go to external stakeholders with a covering letter under the General Manager’s signature.
7. When the feedback from the external stakeholder is received, amendments will be made to the draft Practice Statement if appropriate. The draft Practice Statement will be assigned the next sequential number and issued as a final version to FIRCA staff and the public.
8. Each Practice Statement should be reviewed annually or as appropriate, and may be kept as is, withdrawn or re-issued with updated contents.
9. All Practice Statements must be issued in the standard format. While they are in the draft stage, they must bear a header saying “Discussion draft as at ...”.
10. It is compulsory for FIRCA officers to follow Practice Statements. As they represent the views of FIRCA they are not binding on the public, and their application may be challenged in court. They should therefore be drafted after full and proper consideration of any contrary viewpoint put forward by external stakeholders.