

Banking – New Payments Platform

Launched in February 2018 the New Payments Platform (NPP) is open access infrastructure for fast payments in Australia. Supported by the Reserve Bank and with all banks participating, the NPP is currently being tested with some customers and will be rolled out progressively by each bank over coming months.

Features –

- Fast – payments in real time to other bank accounts
- Data rich – more data attached to each transaction
- Addressing – payments can be made without BSB and Account Number
- Availability – transfer 24/7 to accounts at other banks

Branding –

- **Osko** (developed by BPay)
- **PayID** (like a nickname for your BSB and Account Number) individuals will be able to register and link their mobile phone number, email address, ABN or a free-text ID to their bank account.

When fully implemented the NPP will enable payments to be made and received in (almost) real time to any registered account (irrespective of the bank), and with more data attached to each transaction. This should be of benefit to parishes, both in relation to making payments and receiving offertory & donations.

NPP is not yet fully available for parish accounts, but you may soon start to see transactions appearing with the Osko reference or logo. Soon individuals may begin asking if your parish has a PayID they can use to direct their offertory, make donations or pay for special events, etc.

Parishes won't have to change anything: transfers between bank accounts using the existing BSB and Account Number will continue to work as they do now. However, the NPP opens new opportunities you may want to take advantage of, so we recommend you –

- Contact your bank to see when the NPP will be available for your parish bank account(s).
- Contact your accounting software supplier to see if/when your software will have the capability to capture and process the additional data attached with each transaction.

This link to the Westpac website –

<https://www.westpac.com.au/personal-banking/online-banking/making-the-most/new-payments-platform/>

provides an example of the NPP information currently available.

PayID

The prevention of opportunities for fraud is critical and all banks are very aware of the potential for PayID's in particular to be misused. Accordingly, the developers of the NPP and all participating banks are working hard to ensure there are robust protocols around how PayIDs are developed and registered and until that work has been completed the facility of a free-text PayID will not be made available.

Just to illustrate a little of the problem, consider a typical parish –

- The official parish name is “Anglican Parish of ……….”
- The church name is “St John's ……….”
- It has two bank accounts which parishioners pay into for their ‘parish’ and ‘mission’ giving

Devising a PayID for that parish that is unique (remembering the NPP is Australia wide), reasonably short, and preferably memorable is a real challenge. In any case, since the PayID is case sensitive and spaces and other characters are available, the risk that someone else could register a similar PayID (either innocently or hoping to defraud) using some combination of Anglican / Parish / church / St John's / etc must be very high.

The government has asked to reserve certain words and phrases (such as “gov”) for its sole use.

Accordingly, SDS is recommending that parishes do not attempt to register a PayID at this stage. We will advise all parishes further if/when an appropriate protocol has been developed for PayIDs for Sydney Anglican parishes.