



Effective record keeping for the Next 5,000

Next 5,000 privately owned and wealthy groups: getting your record keeping right will help you avoid costs and audits.

Published 21 February 2025

If you're part of our Next 5,000 private groups tax performance program, we expect you to keep up-to-date and accurate records for your tax returns and business activity statements. If you don't, you could face lengthy and costly audits potentially denying your deductions and input tax credits.

Our regular and ongoing engagement with groups like yours reveals that basic record keeping, including the substantiation of income and expenses is not always well maintained.

For example, the 2024 Next 5,000 findings report for privately owned and wealthy groups shows that, in some cases, deductions were denied because of poor record keeping. Claimants couldn't substantiate their expenses, or they couldn't provide acceptable evidence of the linkage between expenses and income.

This was especially true for related party transactions for example, where one party's reported income was less than the deduction claimed by their associated party.

To steer clear of these pitfalls, use our comprehensive Record keeping for business resource, which can help you with everything you need to know, including:

- an index of core record-keeping information for groups like yours, so you can easily find what you need
- an overview of the record-keeping rules you must follow

- how to set up and manage records and invoices
- the records you must keep, whatever stage of the business lifecycle you're in.

We know that most Next 5,000 taxpayers want to get tax right and meet obligations effectively. That's why we'll continue to provide you with the information you need.

Keep up to date

We have tailored communication channels for medium, large and multinational businesses, to keep you up to date with updates and changes you need to know.

Read more articles in our online Business bulletins newsroom.

Subscribe to our free:

- fortnightly <u>Business bulletins email newsletter</u>
- email notifications about new and updated information on our website – you can choose to receive updates relevant to your situation. Choose the 'Business and organisations' category to ensure your subscription includes notifications for more *Business* bulletins newsroom articles like this one.

QC 103850

Our commitment to you

We are committed to providing you with accurate, consistent and clear information to help you understand your rights and entitlements and meet your obligations.

If you follow our information and it turns out to be incorrect, or it is misleading and you make a mistake as a result, we will take that into account when determining what action, if any, we should take.

Some of the information on this website applies to a specific financial year. This is clearly marked. Make sure you have the information for the right year before making decisions based on that information.

If you feel that our information does not fully cover your circumstances, or you are unsure how it applies to you, contact us or seek professional advice.

Copyright notice

© Australian Taxation Office for the Commonwealth of Australia

You are free to copy, adapt, modify, transmit and distribute this material as you wish (but not in any way that suggests the ATO or the Commonwealth endorses you or any of your services or products).