



Non-resident foreign income

How to amend your non-resident foreign income form.

Last updated 12 March 2024

Part year and full year non-residents for Australian tax purposes are required to report their worldwide income, if they had Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debt or Trade Support Loan (TSL) liability on 1 June 2017.

Worldwide income is:

- their repayment income
- their non-resident foreign-sourced income.

If you are a non-resident for Australian tax purposes, you must report your non-resident foreign-sourced income here so that we can work out your overseas levy amount.

Non-resident foreign income section

Foreign occupation

From the available occupations, select the closest matching occupation from which you earned the majority of your foreign-sourced income during the year.

If your occupation is not listed, or you were not employed (for example, you were an investor, retired or a pensioner), select 'Occupation not listed'.

Select the income assessment method to calculate your foreign-sourced income


There are three assessment methods available to determine your non-resident foreign-sourced income, read more about each at the bottom

of the page.

The method you choose to determine your non-resident foreign-sourced income this year does not restrict your choice of method in a subsequent year.

Net non-resident foreign income

Enter the net amount of your non-resident foreign income calculated under the assessment method you are using for this amendment. To complete this field, follow the instructions for the assessment method you are using.

All amounts must be converted to Australian dollars before being reported, using the average annual exchange rate for the financial year most closely corresponding to the 2016–17 income year. For assistance converting your currency, you can use the [foreign income conversion calculator](#) .

Overseas assessed method

How to use the overseas assessed method to complete the Non-resident foreign income section.

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Simple self-assessment method

How to use the simple self-assessment method to complete the Non-resident foreign income section.

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Under the simple self-assessment method, to assess your foreign-sourced income you must report:

- the occupation from which you derived the most foreign income for an income year; and
- your gross (pre-tax) foreign income earned.

Foreign-sourced income is the difference between your gross (pre-tax) foreign income and the standard deduction that applies to the occupation that you have selected. We automatically calculate and apply the standard deduction for your occupation before calculating any overseas levy due.

If you have selected 'occupation not listed' in the foreign occupation field (for example if you are an investor, retired or a pensioner), no standard deduction can be calculated. The standard deduction amount applied to your gross income will be zero.

Completing this section

To amend your non-resident foreign income, you will need to enter your gross (pre-tax) non-resident foreign income in the net non-resident foreign income field and we will apply the standard deduction to that amount. We may contact you if we cannot process your amendment so please ensure your contact details are up to date.

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Comprehensive tax-based assessment method

How to use the comprehensive tax-based assessment method to complete the non-resident foreign income section.

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Completing this section

The following information will help you to determine your net non-resident foreign-sourced income amount under the comprehensive tax-based assessment method.

Under this method, your foreign-sourced income is determined using Australian taxation rules. This income may be from one or a number of

sources, for example, from investment income or from being an employee or sole trader.

Your foreign-sourced income is the difference between your total (pre-tax) foreign income and the deductions that would have been allowable under the income tax law if that income was assessable in Australia.


Here is a [worksheet \(XLSX, 15KB\)](#)  to help you, and below is a description of what is included at each label of the worksheet.

To complete your amendment, enter the net non-resident foreign income amount from your worksheet into the net non-resident foreign income field.

Gross foreign income when a non-resident for tax purposes

Foreign-sourced income is income you earned from outside Australia when you were a non-resident for tax purposes, for example, when working overseas.

You must report all the foreign-sourced income that you earned during the 2016-17 income year as a non-resident for Australian tax purposes. You must do this even if tax was taken out in the country where you earned the income.

All amounts must be converted to Australian dollars before being reported, using the average annual exchange rate for the financial year most closely corresponding to the 2016-17 income year. For assistance converting your currency, you can use the [foreign income conversion calculator](#) .

This section includes:

- [Salary, wages](#)
- [Allowances](#)
- [Government allowances](#)
- [Pensions \(government pensions and superannuation\)](#)
- [Interest](#)
- [Dividends](#)
- [Other income.](#)

You must provide the gross amount (pre-tax amount) of your foreign income. The foreign income you need to report may consist of the following:

Salary, wages

Income from salary or wages includes:

- salary and wages
- commissions
- bonuses
- income from part-time or casual work
- parental leave pay
- amounts for lost salary or wages paid under
 - an income protection policy
 - a sickness or accident insurance policy
 - a workers compensation scheme.

Allowances

Payments of income from working (other than salary or wages) include:

- employment allowances – for example, car, travel, meals, entertainment, tools, clothing, laundry and site allowances
- tips, gratuities
- consultation fees.

Government allowances

Government allowances include allowances paid to you by a foreign government that form part of your foreign-source income. For example:

- unemployment benefits
- sickness allowances
- education payments

- parenting payments
- other government provided income support.

Pensions (government pensions and superannuation)

Pensions include foreign government pension payments and superannuation income. Some types of government pensions are:

- age pension
- carer payment
- disability pension
- military pension.

Interest

Your foreign income may include any interest paid or credited to you from any source outside Australia, including:

- interest from savings accounts, term deposits and cash management accounts
- interest from children's savings accounts you opened or operated with funds that were yours or you used as if they were yours.

Dividends

Your foreign income may include dividends and distributions that were paid or credited to you by foreign companies while you were a non-resident such as:

- dividends applied under a dividend reinvestment plan
- dividends that were dealt with on your behalf
- bonus shares that qualify as dividends
- distributions by a corporate limited partnership
- dividends paid by a corporate unit trust
- dividends paid by a public trading trust
- dividends paid by a listed investment company.

Note: If you received dividends from an Australian company while you were a non-resident, this should be included in your Australian income

tax return section.

Other income


Other income that may form part of your foreign income includes income you earned as a non-resident such as:

- royalties
- bonus amounts distributed from friendly society income bonds
- scholarships, bursaries, grants or other educational awards
- income from activities as a 'special professional' that you have not included elsewhere on this form (author of a literary, dramatic, musical or artistic work, inventor, performing artist, or active sportsperson)
- any **balancing adjustment** when you stop holding a depreciating asset (for example, because of its disposal, loss or destruction) for which you have claimed a deduction for depreciation or decline in value in previous years; your car, for example, is a depreciating asset
- payments made to you under an income protection, sickness or accident insurance policy where you were self-employed and the payments replaced income, that have not already been included elsewhere.

Foreign deductions when a non-resident for tax purposes

You may be able to claim deductions for expenses you incurred in earning your foreign income. For example, work-related expenses you incurred while performing your job as an employee.

Any expenses you claim must reflect the expenses that would be allowable as a deduction if the foreign income was assessable in Australia and the same record keeping rules apply. For more information, see **Claiming deductions**.

All amounts must be converted to Australian dollars before being reported, using the average annual exchange rate for the financial year most closely corresponding to the 2016–17 income year. For assistance converting your currency, you can use the [foreign income conversion calculator](#) .

Deductions covered in this section:

- [Work related - employee](#)
 - [Car](#)
 - [Travel](#)
 - [Clothing](#)
 - [Self-education](#)
 - [Other expenses](#)
- [Depreciation](#)
- [Interest and dividends](#)
- [UPP of a foreign pension](#)
- [Personal superannuation contributions for those in business](#)
- [Other](#)
- [Prior year tax losses](#)

Work related – employee

You may be able to claim deductions for work-related expenses you incurred while performing your job as an employee.

You incur an expense in an income year when:

- you receive a bill or invoice for an expense that you are liable for and must pay (even if you don't pay it until after the end of the income year), or
- you do not receive a bill or invoice but you are charged and you pay for the expense.

If an expense includes an amount of indirect tax such as a goods and services tax (GST) or a value added tax (VAT), the GST/VAT is part of the total expense and is therefore part of any deduction. For example, if you incurred union fees of \$440 which included \$40 GST/VAT, you claim a deduction for \$440.

Include here the following work-related expenses incurred as an employee.

Car

Work-related car expenses are expenses you incurred as an employee for a car you:

- owned
- leased, or
- hired under a hire-purchase agreement.

Travel

Work-related travel expenses are travel expenses you incur in performing your work as an employee. They include:

- public transport, including air travel and taxi fares when travelling for work
- bridge and road tolls, parking fees and short-term car hire when travelling for work
- meal, accommodation and incidental expenses you incur while away overnight for work
- expenses for motorcycles and for vehicles with a carrying capacity of one tonne or more, or nine or more passengers, such as utility trucks and panel vans
- actual expenses (such as petrol, oil and repair costs) you incur to travel for work in a car that is owned or leased by someone else.

If your employer provided a car for you or your relatives' exclusive use and you were entitled to use it for non-work purposes, you cannot claim a deduction for its running costs (petrol or repairs). However, you can claim expenses such as parking and bridge and road tolls for work-related use of the car.

Clothing

You can claim expenses you incurred as an employee for work-related:

- protective clothing
- uniforms
- occupation-specific clothing, and
- laundering and dry-cleaning of clothing listed above.

You can claim the cost of a work uniform that is distinctive (such as one that has your employer's logo permanently attached to it) and it

must be a compulsory uniform that can be a set of clothing or a single item that identifies you as an employee of an organisation. There must be a strictly enforced policy making it compulsory to wear that clothing at work. Items may include shoes, stockings, socks and jumpers where they are an essential part of a distinctive compulsory uniform and the colour, style and type are specified in your employer's policy.

You can also claim the cost of:

- occupation-specific clothing which allows people to easily recognise that occupation (such as the checked pants a chef wears when working) and which are not for everyday use
- protective clothing and footwear to protect you from the risk of illness or injury, or to prevent damage to your ordinary clothes, caused by your work or work environment. Items may include fire-resistant clothing, sun protection clothing, safety-coloured vests, non-slip nurse's shoes, steel-capped boots, gloves, overalls, aprons, and heavy duty shirts and trousers (but not jeans). You can claim the cost of protective equipment, such as hard hats and safety glasses
- renting, repairing and cleaning any of the above work-related clothing.
If you did washing, drying or ironing yourself, you can use a reasonable basis to calculate the amount, such as AUD\$1 per load for work-related clothing, or 50 cents (AUD) per load if other laundry items were included.

You cannot claim the cost of purchasing or cleaning plain uniforms or clothes, such as black trousers, white shirts, suits or stockings, even if your employer requires you to wear them.

Self-education

You can claim self-education expenses that are related to your work as an employee and which you incur when you do a course to get a formal qualification from a school, college, university or other place of education.

To claim a deduction for self-education expenses, you must have met one of the following conditions when you incurred the expense:

- the course maintained or improved a skill or specific knowledge required for your work activities at that time

- you could show that the course was leading to, or was likely to lead to, increased income from your work activities at that time
- other circumstances existed which established a direct connection between the course and your work activities at that time.

You cannot claim a deduction for self-education expenses for a course that:

- relates only in a general way to your current employment or profession, or
- will enable you to get new employment.

You **cannot** claim contributions you, or the Australian Government, made under the HECS-HELP, or repayments under the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP), the Student Financial Supplement Scheme (SFSS), the Student Start-up Loan (SSL) or the Trade Support Loan Program (TSL).

Examples of expenses you can claim are:

- textbooks
- stationery
- student union fees, student services and amenities fees
- the decline in value of your computer
- certain course fees.

Other expenses

Other work-related expenses are expenses you incurred as an employee and have not claimed above. These include:


- union fees and subscriptions to trade, business or professional associations
- professional seminars, courses, conferences and workshops
- reference books, technical journals and trade magazines
- safety items that protect you from the risk of injury or illness posed by your work or your work environment, such as hard hats, safety glasses and sunscreens
- the work-related proportion of some computer, phone and home office expenses

- **tools and equipment and professional libraries** (you may be able to claim an immediate deduction for the full cost of depreciating assets costing \$300 or less; for more information see **Guide to depreciating assets**).

You **cannot** claim a deduction for the decline in value of items provided to you by your employer, or if your employer paid or reimbursed you for some or all of the cost of those items, and the item was exempt from the fringe benefits tax.

For your home office expenses, you can:


- keep a diary of the details of your actual costs and your work-related use of the office, or
- use a fixed rate of 45 cents (AUD) per hour for heating, cooling, lighting and the decline in value of furniture in your home office.

All amounts must be converted to Australian dollars before being reported, using the average annual exchange rate for the financial year most closely corresponding to the 2016–17 income year. For assistance converting your currency, you can use the [foreign income conversion calculator](#) .

Depreciation

You may be able to claim a deduction for the decline in value of a depreciating asset which you held during the income year to the extent that you used it to produce income that you have included in the non-resident foreign income section.

Depreciating assets include items such as tools, reference books, computers and office furniture.

You may be able to claim an immediate deduction for the full cost of depreciating assets costing \$300 or less. You can use the [Depreciation and capital allowance tool](#)  to work out your deduction if the cost is not fully deductible.

Interest and dividends

Interest

Include any allowable expenses that you would be entitled to claim if the foreign income you reported in the non-resident foreign income section were assessable income in Australia. Expenses include:

- bank or other financial institution account-keeping fees for accounts held for investment purposes
- fees for investment advice relating to changes in the mix of your investments
- interest you paid on money you borrowed to purchase income-producing investments.

If you had a joint account or if you shared an interest-earning investment, you can claim only your share of the joint expenses.

If you borrowed money to purchase assets for your private use and income-producing investments, you can claim only the portion of the interest expenses relating to the income-producing investments.

You can claim a proportion of the decline in value of your computer, based on the percentage of your total computer use that related to managing your investments. If you have different investments, such as interest-earning investments and shares, claim this deduction only once.

Dividends

Include any expenses you incurred earning the gross foreign dividends you reported.

Expenses include:

- fees for investment advice relating to changes in the mix of your shares or similar investments
- interest incurred on money borrowed to purchase shares or similar investments
- costs relating to managing your shares or similar investments, such as travel and buying specialist investment journals or subscriptions.

If you had joint share investments or similar shared investments, claim only your share of joint expenses.

If you borrowed money to purchase assets for your private use and income-producing investments, you can claim only the portion of the interest expenses relating to the income-producing investments.

You can claim a proportion of the decline in value of your computer, based on the percentage of your total computer use that related to managing your investments. If you have different investments, such as

interest-earning investments and shares, claim this deduction only once.

UPP of a foreign pension

You may be entitled to claim a deduction to reduce your reported foreign pension or annuity income if your pension or annuity has an undeducted purchase price (UPP).

Only some foreign pensions and annuities have a UPP. The UPP is the amount you contributed towards the purchase price of your pension or annuity (your personal contributions). That part of your annual pension or annuity income which represents a return to you of your personal contributions is free from tax. This tax-free portion is called the deductible amount of the UPP, and it is usually calculated by dividing the UPP of your pension or annuity by a life expectancy factor, according to life expectancy statistics.

For more information on pensions from another country, see **Deductible amount of undeducted purchase price of a foreign pension or annuity.**

Personal superannuation contributions for those in business

You may be able to claim a deduction for personal superannuation contributions you made to a complying Australian superannuation fund or a retirement savings account (RSA) in the income year if:

- you satisfied the age-related conditions
- you gave a valid notice of intent to your fund or RSA provider, in the approved form, and advised them of the amount you intend to claim as a deduction (you must give this notice on or before the day you lodge your 2017 tax return or 30 June 2018, whichever is earlier)
- your fund or RSA provider acknowledged your valid notice, and
- you satisfy the less than 10% rule.

Other

If you have other expenses that would be allowable as a deduction if your foreign income was assessable, which you have not been able to claim elsewhere in the Non-resident foreign income section, you can include them here.

For more information about what can be claimed, see **Other deductions**. Note that this link takes you to the Australian income tax return information and that some items which are specific to Australian residents do not apply in your situation.

Prior year tax losses

If you have a foreign tax loss from an earlier income year which you have not claimed as a deduction, you can include it here.

You may have a foreign tax loss this year which you may be able to claim as a deduction. You must complete this section whether or not you are able to claim a deduction for the loss this year.

If you have foreign tax losses from more than one earlier income year you should generally deduct the earliest losses first.


To complete this field you will need records of your tax losses from earlier income years.

Net foreign income (income less expenses) when a non-resident for tax purposes

Net foreign income (gross foreign income less expenses) is from overseas business and investments you made as a non-resident. This section covers:

- [net business income](#)
- [net personal services income](#)
- [net partnership and trust income](#)
- [net capital gains](#)
- [net rent](#).

You must include your net foreign income here.

All amounts must be converted to Australian dollars before being reported using the average annual exchange rate for the financial year most closely corresponding to the 2016–17 income year. For assistance converting your currency, you can use the [foreign income conversion calculator](#) .

Net business income

If you derived non-resident foreign income or incurred a foreign loss from any business carried on overseas include it here. This includes:


- income or loss from being a sole trader
- income or a loss from a primary production business
- income or loss of an independent contractor working under a labour hire arrangement
- income or loss as a performing artist in a promotional activity
- any other business income or loss.

For more information, see **Business and Professional items**.

Net personal services income

Complete this field if you received foreign income for personal services you provided as a non-resident sole trader and you did not:

- receive a personal services business determination in relation to your personal services income (PSI)
- satisfy the results test, or
- satisfy at least one of the other three personal services business tests
(if less than 80% of your PSI came from each client).

Personal services income is income that is mainly a reward for an individual's personal efforts or skills. To work out whether your income is personal services income you can use the [Personal services income tool](#) , or see **Personal services income**.for more information. To work out your net personal services income, see **Business and Professional items**.

Net partnership and trust income

If your non-resident foreign income is from partnerships or trusts include it here. Include your share of:

- primary production partnership income or loss, and
- non-primary production partnership income or loss.

If the partnership in which you were a partner paid you salary, wages or allowances you must show that income here.

If you received, or were entitled to, a distribution of trust income, you must enter that amount here.

Net capital gains

If your non-resident foreign income includes a capital gain or a capital loss made for an asset that is not **taxable Australian property** you hold or held during the year, include it here. Under the Australian tax law, for most CGT events, you make:

- a **capital gain** if the amount of money and property you received, or were entitled to receive, from the CGT event was more than the cost base of your asset; you may then have to pay tax on your capital gain
- a **capital loss** if the amount of money and property you received, or were entitled to receive, from the CGT event was less than the reduced cost base of your asset.

There is a wide range of CGT events. The most common CGT event happens when you sell or give away a CGT asset. For more information, see **Capital gains or losses**.

Net rent

Rental income

This is the non-resident foreign income you earn when you rent out your property (including if you are renting out a room through a sharing economy website or app). You must include any bond money retained in place of rent or kept because of damage to the property requiring repairs. An insurance payout for lost rent or a reimbursement of any rental expenses you claim in 2016–17 or claimed in an earlier year must also be included as income.

Rental expenses

You can claim expenses relating to your rental property but only for the period your property was rented or available for rent, for example, advertised for rent.

Expenses could include advertising for tenants, bank charges, body corporate fees, borrowing expenses, council rates, decline in value of depreciating assets, gardening and lawn mowing, insurance, land tax, pest control, property agent fees or commissions, repairs and maintenance, stationery, phone, water charges, and travel undertaken to inspect the property or to collect the rent.

If part of your property is used to earn rent, you can claim expenses relating to only that part of the property. You will need to work out a reasonable basis to apportion the claim.

For more information, see [Rent](#).

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Overseas assessed method

How to use the overseas assessed method to complete the Non-resident foreign income section.

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Under the overseas assessed method, your net non-resident foreign income amount is your income for taxation purposes according to the most recent tax assessment by a taxation authority of a foreign country.

If no tax was payable because the foreign income is below the foreign country's tax threshold, this option is still available provided there is an income assessment (provide your income for taxation purposes).

The assessment must cover a period of 12 months, even if income was not earned for the whole 12 months. If this period of 12 months overlaps with the Australian income year (1 July to 30 June), you can use the assessment.

You cannot use this method of assessment if any of the following apply:

- the period of 12 months for which your income was assessed by a foreign taxation authority does not overlap with the relevant Australian income year that the assessment relates to. This is to ensure that you are reporting your income for a period of time as closely aligned as possible with the Australian income year
- multiple assessments of your income have been made by tax authorities of different foreign countries for periods of 12 months that overlap with the relevant Australian income year

- the most recent tax assessment made by a foreign tax authority has already been used to work out your foreign-sourced income for a previous income year.


Completing this section

TFN equivalent in the relevant tax jurisdiction

Each tax jurisdiction will use an identifier for their taxpayers, whether it is an identity number to access all government services, or an identifier specific to that nation's revenue agency. You need to include the identifier here.

Net non-resident foreign income

Enter the income amount that appears on your foreign income tax assessment. That is, your income for taxation purposes according to the tax assessment you received from a taxation authority of the foreign country that made the assessment.

All amounts must be converted to Australian dollars before being reported, using the average annual exchange rate for the financial year most closely corresponding to the 2016–17 income year. For assistance converting your currency, you can use the [foreign income conversion calculator](#) .

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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.

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