



ATO warns taxpayers: Don't lodge yet!

The ATO reminds taxpayers to wait to lodge their income tax return until pre-fill is complete.

Published 26 June 2025

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is warning taxpayers not to lodge their tax returns until their income statement is marked as 'tax ready' and data has been pre-filled by the ATO.

Last year 142,000 people who lodged in the first 2 weeks of July had to lodge amendments, or had their returns investigated and amended by the ATO to fix inaccuracies in their tax return, for example, income that had not been declared properly.

ATO Assistant Commissioner Rob Thomson said that waiting until late July allows for the ATO to prefill information in your tax return.

'We know doing your tax return is something to tick off your to-do list each year, but there's no need to rush. The best time to lodge is from late July once everything is ready.'

'We pre-fill information from your employer, banks, government agencies and health funds into your tax return to help you get it right the first time – regardless of whether you use a registered tax agent or lodge yourself,' Mr Thomson said.

Waiting for this information to be pre-filled reduces the likelihood of mistakes or omissions, which can often result in taxpayers having to submit an amendment which can cause issues and delays for taxpayers.


'If you wait until late July to lodge, all you need to do is check your information, add anything that's missing and include any deductions or offsets that you're eligible for.'

'If you're keen to get your ducks in a row before you lodge, make sure you have all the necessary records, ensure your personal information and bank details are up to date and check the ATO **occupation guides** to see what deductions you may be able to claim.'

'The ATO is also encouraging taxpayers to download the **ATO app** and set up a strong digital identity to protect themselves this tax time to ensure your interactions online are safe and secure. The app not only allows you to keep records of your work and general expenses but it will keep your information safe, including notifying you of any suspicious activity on your account,' Mr Thomson said.

Once your employer has finalised your income statement, it will be marked as 'tax ready'. Taxpayers can check if their income statement is 'tax ready', as well as if pre-fill is available in myTax prior to lodging or in the ATO app.

Notes to journalists

- Audio grabs of Assistant Commissioner Rob Thomson speaking to the messages in this media release are available for download from our media centre.
- Assistant Commissioner Rob Thomson is available for interviews on request.
- A high-resolution headshot of [ATO Assistant Commissioner Rob Thomson](#)  is available for download from our media centre.
- ATO stock footage and images are available for use in news bulletins from our media centre.
- For information about the ATO's commitments to you, see the **ATO Charter**.

QC 105121

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).