



# **Income Tax Assessment (Requirement for Parents Liable for or Entitled to Child Support to Lodge a Return for the 2026 Year) Instrument 2026**

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I, Rob Heferen, Commissioner of Taxation, make the following instrument.

Dated 21 May 2026

Rob Heferen  
Commissioner of Taxation

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## 1 Name

This instrument is the *Income Tax Assessment (Requirement for Parents Liable for or Entitled to Child Support to Lodge a Return for the 2026 Year) Instrument 2026*.

## 2 Commencement

- (1) Each provision of this instrument specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

Commencement information		
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Provisions	Commencement	Date/Details
1. The whole of this instrument	The day after this instrument is registered.	

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this instrument as originally made. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this instrument.

- (2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this instrument. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in it may be edited, in any published version of this instrument.

## 3 Authority

This instrument is made under section 161 of the Act.

## 4 Definitions

Note: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in section 6 of the Act, including the following:

- (a) approved form;
- (b) year of income.

In this instrument:

**2026 year** means:

- (a) for a person who has a substituted accounting period, that period; or
- (b) for any other person, the year of income ended 30 June 2026.

**Act** means the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936*.

**carer entitled to child support** has the meaning given in the CSAA.

**CSAA** means the *Child Support (Assessment) Act 1989*.

**liable parent** has the meaning given in the CSAA.

**non-parent carer** has the meaning given in the CSAA.

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*SSA* means the *Social Security Act 1991*.

*substituted accounting period* means an accounting period that a person has been granted leave to adopt under section 18 of the ITAA 1936, instead of the year of income ended 30 June 2026.

*TAA* means the *Taxation Administration Act 1953*.

*VEA* means the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

## 5 Requirement to lodge an income tax return

- (1) Under section 161 of the Act, every person who was for at least one day in the 2026 year either a carer entitled to child support (other than a non-parent carer) or a liable parent is required to give a return for the 2026 year, unless subsection (2) applies.
- (2) A person is not required to lodge a return under subsection (1) if:
  - (a) the total of their following amounts for the 2026 year was less than \$31,047:
    - (i) taxable income (excluding any assessable first home super saver released amount);
    - (ii) tax free pensions or benefits as defined in section 5 of the CSAA;
    - (iii) target foreign income as defined in section 5B of the CSAA;
    - (iv) reportable fringe benefits total;
    - (v) total net investment loss; and
    - (vi) reportable superannuation contributions; and
  - (b) they were in receipt of one or more of the following Australian Government pensions, allowances or payments for the whole of the 2026 year:
    - (i) ABSTUDY living allowance under the ABSTUDY scheme;
    - (ii) age pension under the SSA;
    - (iii) age service pension under the VEA;
    - (iv) austudy payment under the SSA;
    - (v) carer payment under the SSA;
    - (vi) disability support pension under the SSA;
    - (vii) disaster income support allowance for special category visa (subclass 444) holders;
    - (viii) Disaster Recovery Allowance under the SSA;
    - (ix) farm household allowance under the *Farm Household Support Act 2014*;
    - (x) income support supplement under the VEA;
    - (xi) invalidity service pension under the VEA;
    - (xii) jobseeker payment under the SSA;
    - (xiii) parenting payment (benefit PP (partnered)) under the SSA;
    - (xiv) parenting payment (pension PP (single)) under the SSA;
    - (xv) partner service pension under the VEA; and

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- (xvi) payments under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme (otherwise known as ‘MRCA Education Allowance’);
  - (xvii) payments under a self-employment program including the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme and the Self-Employment Assistance program;
  - (xviii) any other taxable Commonwealth education or training payments;
  - (xix) payments under the Veterans’ Children Education Scheme established under the VEA;
  - (xx) special benefit under the SSA;
  - (xxi) veteran payment under the VEA.
  - (xxii) youth allowance under the SSA;
  - (xxiii) youth disability supplement paid as a component of ABSTUDY living allowance under the ABSTUDY scheme, or a component of youth allowance under the SSA;

Note 1: The return must be in the approved form (see section 161A of the Act).

Note 2: Nothing in this instrument prevents the Commissioner from requiring, under sections 162 or 163 of the Act, a person to give the Commissioner, in the approved form and within the time required, a return, or a further or fuller return, or any information, statement or document about the person’s financial affairs. It also does not prevent the Commissioner from granting an exemption from lodgment.

Note 3: Any person who does not give a return, or any other information when and as required under a taxation law, commits an offence under section 8C of the TAA. They may also become liable to pay a penalty under Division 286 in Schedule 1 to the TAA.

## **6 When an income tax return must be lodged**

- (1) Every person required to lodge a return for the 2026 year must lodge the return by 31 October 2026, unless they have a substituted accounting period.
- (2) Every person required to lodge a return for the 2026 year who has a substituted accounting period must lodge the return no later than the last day of the fourth month after the end of their substituted accounting period.

Note: Under section 388-55 in Schedule 1 to the TAA, the Commissioner may defer the time for lodgment of any return to a later date.