



Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office



Tax in Australia

What you need to know

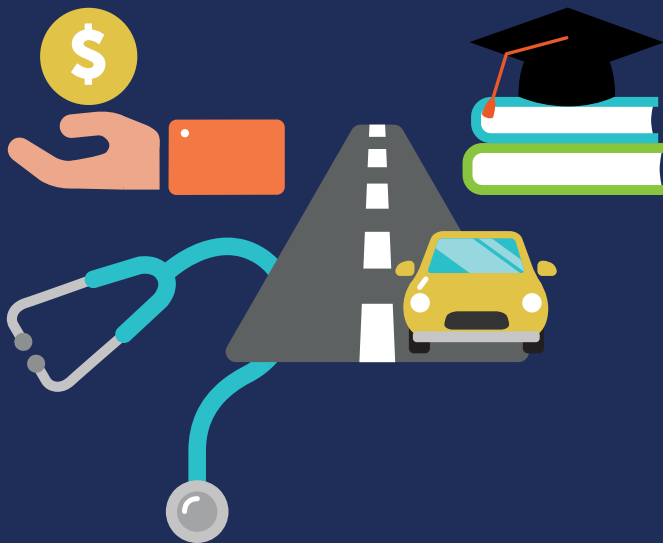
ato.gov.au

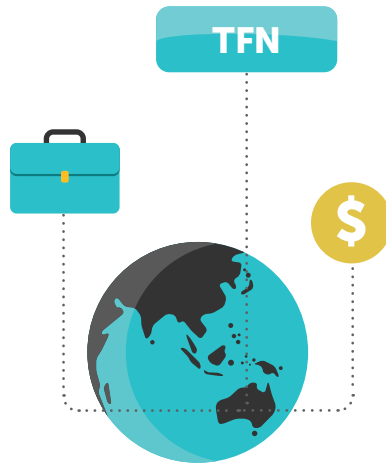
Why we pay tax

Tax is money people and businesses pay to the Australian Government to provide services including:

- health
- education
- defence
- roads and railways
- social security and other payments from Centrelink.

As Australians we enjoy access to a good health system, quality education and a variety of community facilities (for example parks and playgrounds) which are supported through tax collections.





Permission to work in Australia

If you are a foreign resident, you must get permission from the Department of Home Affairs before you start work in Australia. Home Affairs can provide you with useful information including which visas allow you to work in Australia.

For more information about permission to work in Australia phone Home Affairs on **13 18 81** or visit **homeaffairs.gov.au**

How much tax you will pay

The amount of tax you pay depends on:

- whether you are an Australian resident for tax purposes
- how much income you earn
- if you have a tax file number (TFN) – this is a personal identity number which you should tell your employer.

If you begin work before you have a TFN, you have 28 days to get one and give it to your employer. If you don't, your employer must take tax from your pay at the highest rate.

For more information about how much tax you will pay, go to **ato.gov.au/rates**



Getting a TFN

Before starting work we recommend you get a TFN otherwise you'll pay more tax. We issue TFNs to individuals, businesses and other organisations for identification and record keeping purposes.

How to apply for a TFN

To apply for a TFN you can visit:

- our website at **ato.gov.au/tfn**
- Centrelink at **humanservices.gov.au**

If you are migrating to Australia or hold a temporary resident visa that allows you to work in Australia, you can apply for a TFN online at **ato.gov.au/tfnautoreg**

When completing your application, you will require documents that prove your identity.

It can take up to 28 days to process your TFN application, and send your TFN to your address.



Keeping your TFN safe

Your TFN is with you for life, so keep it secure. You keep the same TFN even if you change your name or address, change jobs, move interstate or go overseas.

Don't let anyone else use your TFN, even friends or relatives. Allowing someone else to use it, giving it away or selling it is a crime.

Only give your TFN to:

- us when discussing your tax records
- your employer after you begin work, but do not provide it on job applications
- your bank or other financial institutions
- Centrelink
- your registered tax agent
- your superannuation (super) fund.

Report any loss, theft or misuse of your TFN to us immediately by calling **1800 467 033**.

Keeping your TFN and other personal identity details secure helps prevent identity crime. Identity crime happens when people's identity details are used to commit crimes.

Scam emails, faxes, SMS and phone calls can look and sound very convincing. Be aware and if you're unsure a communication is from us, call our scam hotline **1800 008 540**.

For more information about how to keep your personal details safe visit:

protecting your information –
ato.gov.au/identitycrime

tax scams – **ato.gov.au/scams** or
scamwatch.gov.au



Australian business numbers (ABN) are for business

Not everyone is entitled to or needs to have an ABN to work in Australia. Having an ABN means you:

- are running your own business
- have to pay your own tax to us
- may need to pay for your own super
- may not be insured if you're injured.

For more information on applying for an ABN visit **abr.gov.au**



Lodging a tax return

You need to lodge a tax return to tell us:

- how much income you have earned from working, or from interest on bank accounts or investments
- how much tax has been withheld, so how much money is taken out of your pay by your employer and sent to us
- any deductions you are claiming.

Generally you will need to lodge a tax return if you pay tax during the financial year.

To find out if you are required to lodge a tax return, visit **ato.gov.au/DoINeedToLodge** or phone us on **13 28 61**.

To lodge your return, you will need your income statement or payment summary information. If you use a tax agent, they will have this information.

For details, visit **ato.gov.au/incomestatement**

How to complete and lodge your tax return

Online using myTax

You can lodge online using myTax. It is the quick, easy, safe and secure way to lodge online.

Visit **ato.gov.au/lodgeonline**

A registered tax agent

You can use a registered tax agent to prepare and lodge your tax return. You can find a registered tax agent, or check whether a person is a registered tax agent, by visiting the Tax Practitioners Board website at **tpb.gov.au**

Extra help with lodging your tax return

If you need help to lodge your tax return, you might be able to use the Tax Help program.

Tax Help is a group of ATO-trained and accredited community volunteers who provide a free and confidential service to help people complete their tax returns online using myTax. It's available from July to October, in all capital cities and many regional areas across Australia.

For more information about Tax Help go to **ato.gov.au/taxhelp** or call **13 28 61**.



When to lodge

If you are preparing and lodging your own tax return, you must **lodge it by 31 October**. If you are using a tax agent for the first time or a different agent to last year, **you must contact them by 31 October**.

If you don't lodge your tax return and pay any amounts you owe us, you may have to pay penalties.

Work-related expenses

Work-related expenses may be tax deductible if you have spent money on something to help you earn your income. You must be able to show that:

- expenses directly relate to earning income
- expenses are not private in nature
- you have a record to prove your expenditure.

For more information on deductions you can claim, visit **ato.gov.au/deductions**



Record keeping

When you lodge your tax return, we process it and work out whether you have paid the right amount of tax. We let you know the result by sending you a notice of assessment. Generally, you must keep records such as receipts for any deductions you claim for at least five years from the date you lodge your tax return.

For more information, visit **ato.gov.au/taxrecords**

Superannuation

Super is Australia's retirement savings system. It is money set aside over your working life to provide for your retirement.

When starting a new job, it's important for you to understand how super works and to know your rights and entitlements. Decisions you make now and in the future will affect your lifestyle when you retire.

Compulsory employer super contributions are in addition to your salary. Most people can choose which Australian super fund these contributions are paid into.

Generally, if you are paid \$450 or more in a calendar month, your employer must contribute a percentage of what you earn into a super account for you.

For more information about super, visit **ato.gov.au/super** You can also find out how to track your super at **ato.gov.au/trackyoursuper**



More information

For more information about tax and super in Australia visit our website at ato.gov.au or phone us on **13 28 61** (8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday except national public holidays).



We speak your language

Visit **ato.gov.au/otherlanguages** for tax and super information in other languages.

If you don't speak English well and need help from us, phone the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on **13 14 50**.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, phone us through the National Relay Service (NRS) on the numbers listed below and ask for the ATO number you need:

- Tax Telephone (TTY) users, phone **13 36 77**
- Speak and Listen (speech-to-speech relay) users, phone **1300 555 727**
- internet relay users, connect to the NRS on **relayservice.com.au**



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