



Tax time

What you need to know and do at tax time depends on your circumstances.

Tax time is from July to October each year. Many people need to lodge a tax return. If you need to lodge, it's best to wait until late July when most information is pre-filled in your tax return. This can help you avoid mistakes and needing to amend and re-submit it later.

Before you lodge

Check if you need to lodge a tax return.

You may need to lodge a tax return if you:

- had tax deducted or withheld from your income or Centrelink payments
- have a child support assessment.

If you didn't claim Family Tax Benefit (FTB) during the financial year but want to, you need to lodge a lump sum claim online by 30 June the following year so you don't miss out.

When you lodge

Your Centrelink payment information will usually pre-fill in the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) myTax by late July.

Not all taxable payments from us will show on your Centrelink payment summary. For example, some taxable emergency and disaster payments. If you got any of these payments, you'll need to manually add them to your tax return yourself.

Before lodging, you should check all your details carefully. If something is wrong, you may need to amend your return later.

The information in your tax return helps the ATO or Services Australia:

- work out your Medicare levy and whether you need to pay the Medicare levy surcharge
- work out if enough tax was deducted or withheld from your income and government payments, including Centrelink
- balance your Family Tax Benefit and Child Care Subsidy (CCS)
- confirm your child support assessment.

Your outcome can change each year. Any tax refund, FTB or CCS balancing outcome will depend on your family income and circumstances.

After you lodge

Once the ATO processes your tax return, you'll get your notice of assessment. If you get FTB, CCS or have a child support assessment, the ATO will send us your income details.

After you lodge, you can:

- check the progress of your family payments balancing
- amend your tax return if you made a mistake.

If you don't need to lodge

If you submit a non-lodgment advice with the ATO and get FTB, CCS or pay or receive child support, you must confirm your income with us.

You can confirm your income for FTB and CCS in your Centrelink online account through myGov using 'Advise non-lodgment of tax return'.

You can confirm your income for child support in your Child Support online account through myGov. You need to do this even if you didn't have any income.

Prepare for next financial year

You can prepare for next financial year by asking us to set up a voluntary deduction for tax if you get an eligible taxable Centrelink payment. Doing this may help reduce your tax debt at the end of the financial year.

You can start, stop, or update a voluntary deduction for tax using your Centrelink online account through the myGov website or myGov app.

If you get FTB or CCS, make sure you update your family income estimate any time your income changes.

You can choose how you get FTB to help reduce the risk of getting a debt.

You can update your CCS withholdings percentage to create a buffer that may help reduce the risk of getting a debt at the end of the financial year.

We're here to help

If you need help with tax time information, check your online account or contact us for support.



Go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/taxtime