

Information for Travellers

TAXATION

If I am a working holidaymaker, do I have to lodge an Australian income tax return?

Most working holidaymakers are tourists or travellers visiting Australia and are not Australian residents for tax purposes. If you have been paid a salary or wages in Australia, you are required to lodge an income tax return.

The Australian tax year ends on 30 June. Your employer will send you a payment summary shortly after this date, detailing your total earnings and taxation for the year. You should lodge your tax return by 31 October, unless you have been granted an extension to lodge until a later date. You will have to pay more tax if you didn't pay enough while you were working. If too much tax was withheld from your pay, you will get a refund.

It can take up to six weeks to process your tax return, so make sure you write an address on your tax return where we can send your notice of assessment.

If you are leaving Australia before the end of our tax year, you may be able to lodge your tax return before you leave (see below).

What is the effect of being a non-resident?

Non-residents pay tax differently from residents. As a non-resident you will:

- ? pay tax on all salary and wage income earned in Australia. The non-resident tax rate is 29% for taxable incomes up to \$21,600. Higher tax rates apply for taxable incomes above this amount
- ? have 10% of any interest earned from your Australian bank accounts withheld for tax. This interest is not included as assessable income. You need to advise the Australian financial institution of your overseas address so that this tax can be withheld otherwise tax will be withheld at the higher rate of 48.5%
- ? not pay the Medicare levy. You also may not be entitled to claim Medicare benefits
- ? not be entitled to the tax-free threshold
- ? not be entitled to claim certain tax offsets or tax credits which are available to residents

Are you eligible to lodge an early return?

Tax Office policy is to accept early lodgement of returns for individuals before the end of the financial year **only** in certain circumstances. We will accept your return prior to the end of the financial year:

- ? if you are a non-resident of Australia for tax purposes and
 - o you are leaving Australia permanently, and

- you will no longer derive Australian sourced income (excluding interest, dividend and royalty income),

If you are **not** leaving Australia permanently, or will receive Australian sourced income (other than interest, dividends and royalties) after leaving Australia, you should lodge your return during the normal lodgement period (1 July to 31 October).

How to lodge an early return

If you meet the requirements outlined above, you will need to:

- ? Obtain a copy of *TaxPack* (available from most newsagents or from www.ato.gov.au).
- ? Obtain the form *Taxpayer leaving Australia – Request for early assessment* (NAT 3407). You can get this form from www.ato.gov.au, from your nearest *Tax Office shopfront* or by calling the Publications Distribution Service on **1300 720 092** for the cost of a local call.
- ? Collect a payment summary from each of your employers plus details of other income you have earned while in Australia.
- ? Complete your tax return and mark the relevant year in **bold** on the front of the return (for example, if you are using *TaxPack* 2004 to complete your return for the 2004-05 income year, cross out the 2004 and mark the return **2005**. Attach the completed *Taxpayer leaving Australia - Request for early assessment* to the front of the return and post both forms to GPO Box 9990 in your capital city.

Your assessment should be processed in approximately six weeks and will be sent to the postal address given on the return.

For further taxation information, please refer to <http://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/>
Or call the Australian Taxation Office on **13 28 61**

SUPERANNUATION

In Australia, employers contribute an additional **9%** of your earnings to a complying superannuation fund (providing that you have earned in excess of \$450 for the month).

At WellsGray, contributions are made on a monthly basis to Recruitment Super, our default fund. Should you wish to nominate an alternative fund, please complete a Choice of Superannuation form, available from our website www.wellsgray.com.au .

You may be entitled to claim back the superannuation you earned while on a working visa in Australia, but only after you have permanently left Australia.

You can make a claim online via the [ATO website](http://www.ato.gov.au). You will be asked to provide various details which will also be passed to the Australian Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs to establish whether you are eligible for a payment of your superannuation.

Please note: You cannot claim your funds until your visa has expired.

Your payment will be taxed at approximately 30% and can be paid into an Australian bank account (held in your name) or a cheque sent to you in Australian dollars.

The process for claiming your money from Recruitment Super is:

Step	Process
Step 1:	Contact RecruitmentSuper on 1300 304 000 for a Benefit Withdrawal Application . Our Customer Service staff can advise you of your account balance.
Step 2:	Complete the Benefit Withdrawal Application along with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">? A copy of your passport showing your departure date.? A copy of your visa showing expiry or cancellation information.? A written statement from the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous affairs (DIMIA), if your balance is \$5,000 or more. You can contact DIMIA on 131 881 or click on the link below.? Your Tax File Number.? Your Australian bank account details. A cheque will be issued if no bank account details are provided.
Step 3:	Return the completed form to RecruitmentSuper for processing. Postal address: RecruitmentSuper GPO Box 4839 Melbourne, VIC 3001 AUSTRALIA

**New Zealand citizens are not eligible to claim the balance of their Australian Superannuation benefits. Since 1973 Australia and New Zealand have an established 'Trans-Tasman Travel arrangement' whereby citizens of each country can live and work in the other country without need for a visa.*

FURTHER ASSISTANCE

Taxback.com is a service that many travellers use to take the hassle out of reclaiming tax and superannuation refunds after leaving Australia. They generally take a commission of approximately 10% from the entitlement but can make the process much easier for non-residents who have returned home. Further information is available from their website www.Taxback.com.