

Including all your income is important

When you complete your tax return you need to declare all your income to the ATO. For many this is simply a matter of entering the income listed on your payment summary or income statement. But what if you have multiple streams of income?

If you wait until August to lodge online with myTax or via a registered tax agent, information provided to us by your employers, banks, government agencies and other third parties is pre-filled into your tax return. It is still your responsibility to ensure all income is included.

Below are some of the forms of income that people commonly forget to declare.

■ Foreign income

If you're an Australian resident for tax purposes, you are taxed on your worldwide income, so you must declare any foreign income in your income tax return. This includes things such as foreign pensions, foreign employment income and capital gains on overseas assets.

■ Second job

You need to make sure all of your employment income is included on your tax return, regardless of whether you have one job or more, are full-time, part-time or casual.

■ Employee share scheme (ESS)

If you participate in an ESS to receive discounted shares or rights to acquire shares, you must declare the discount you received as income on your tax return.

■ Interest

If you receive interest, you must declare it as income. This includes interest from all of your financial institution accounts and term deposits.

■ Capital gains

If you make a capital gain or loss from the disposal of an asset, such as real estate, shares, managed investments or cryptocurrency, it must be recorded in your tax return.

■ Sharing economy

Money you earn from the sharing economy needs to be reported in your tax return. Sharing economy activities can include ride-sourcing (eg through platforms such as Uber or Taxify), renting out a room or house (eg through platforms such as Airbnb or HomeAway), caravan or car sharing, and renting out a car space. Remember to keep records of all income you earn and declare it in your tax return.