



Australian Government

Australian Taxation Office

How *e-tax* can help you

Are you self-employed and having difficulty preparing your own individual tax return?

The ATO's free tax preparation and lodgment software *e-tax* can help. Once you have downloaded *e-tax*, it will ask you a series of questions in an easy interview style format. *E-tax* also has built-in calculators that can simplify the preparation of your return.

The pre-filling service in *e-tax* will give you the option to download information that has been reported to the ATO directly into the relevant labels of your *e-tax* return. This includes income such as government payments, interest and dividends and private health insurance details.

Other information is pre-filled into an "information only" summary, this includes reminders about amounts you may need to declare or claim on your return and details about your labour hire and personal services income payment summaries. While pre-filling can't download these amounts directly into the relevant label on your *e-tax* return for you, *e-tax* will help you determine where to put these amounts.

Last year more than 2.3 million taxpayers used *e-tax*, including taxpayers who declared business income.

As an independent contractor preparing your own individual return, *e-tax* offers you the following benefits:

- **Convenience** – *e-tax* is available anytime to suit your busy schedule which is handy for those who may find it tough to take time out of their business to go and see a tax agent. You can prepare the return in your own time and save and come back to your return as many times as you need to.
- **Save time** – *e-tax* asks you questions so that it can tailor the return for you, allowing you to focus only on the sections relevant to you. Built-in calculators mean you don't need to manually calculate and transcribe amounts between sections of the return.
- **Get an on-the-spot estimate** of your refund or amount payable.
- **Personalised** – *e-tax* can help fill out parts of the return for you using the pre-filling service. This helps you get it right by allowing you to:
 - check the information other organisations have sent to the ATO against your own records to make sure there aren't any discrepancies which could lead to audit activity, and
 - focus on the other parts of your return, like working out your deductions.

You can download *e-tax* from the homepage on our website - ato.gov.au