



Bantacs Accountants (Qld) Pty Ltd

CHECKLIST - INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RETURN 2026

PLEASE NOTE:

PAYG Summaries and Health Insurance Statements – We can now access this information through the ATO portal so most employers and health funds are not issuing paper versions. It may still be worth bringing in your 30th June payslip as there is now less information available on the PAYG summaries.

Bank Interest and Shares – It can take a while for the interest and dividend information to arrive on the ATO portal so if you are coming in early it would be worth bringing this information with you. If you have sold shares during the last financial year we will need to know the original purchase price plus any dividend reinvestment.

Letters from your Employer – The ATO's latest trick is in every audit with any work-related tax deductions, to require you to produce a letter from your employer verifying these expenses were necessary for you to carry out your job. Audits tend to happen a year or so after you lodge your tax return. By then you might not be on good terms with your employer or your supervisor may have left. It would be prudent to acquire this letter at the end of each financial year just in case your number comes up. We can help you with a draft when preparing your tax return. Alternatively, a template is available on our checklist page <https://www.bantacs.com.au/media-library/checklists/>. In the 2026 budget the government allocated more money to the ATO to increase its audit activities.

Audit Insurance - The BAN TACS group has secured very economical audit insurance for our clients. Please speak to your Accountant if you are interested in protection.

Virtual tax Returns – We also do tax returns over zoom, with the shared screen facility it works quite well. For more information go to <https://www.bantacs.com.au/virtual-tax-returns/>

Record Keeping – Please note that the responsibility for keeping your receipts, log books etc remains with you. You need to keep your records for at least 5 years from the date of lodging your tax return. In some cases such as capital gains or depreciation you will need to keep records for at least 5 years after the tax return in which you sold the item. In the case of suspected fraud the ATO can go back as far as it likes, so we cannot really advise you that it is ever safe to dispose of your records. For more information <https://www.ato.gov.au/individuals-and-families/income-deductions-offsets-and-records/records-you-need-to-keep>

Misinformation – It is important to note that new Tax Practitioners Board rules mean that we must correct any errors in your tax return the minute we become aware of them. If you do not permit us to amend your tax return we will be required to report you to the ATO. Further, if you advise us of any irregularities in the approach of your previous tax agent we are required to report them. We are also required to refuse to act for anyone blatantly avoiding paying tax on their income, such as not declaring cash. This does not prevent us from advising you on how to legally organise your affairs to ensure that you pay the minimum tax required.

Stay Up to Date - Help us keep in touch with you during the year by subscribing to our newflash <https://www.bantacs.com.au/media-library/newsflash/>

PERSONAL DETAILS

Your Name: Mr. | Mrs. | Ms. | Miss _____ DOB: ____ / ____ / ____

Was this the name used on your last tax return? YES ☐ NO ☐ Details if No: _____

Existing clients need only provide details of changes that have occurred since you lodged your last income tax return

Tax File Number: _____ Occupation: _____

Residential Address: _____

Postal Address: _____

Has your postal address changed since lodging a tax return? YES ☐ NO ☐ E-mail Address: _____

Telephone: _____ (W) _____ (H) _____ (M)

Are you a war veteran or widow/widower of a war veteran yet under the Aged Pension age? YES ☐ NO ☐

Do you operate under an ABN? YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please complete a Business Schedule which is available on our website: <https://bantacsningi.com.au/services> scroll down to downloads

Family Details

Spouse's Name: Mr. | Mrs. | Ms. | Miss _____ DOB: ____ / ____ / ____

Was this their name used on your last tax return? YES ☐ NO ☐

Previous name _____ Notified ATO? ____ / ____ / ____

Spouse's TFN: _____ Email Address: _____

Spouse's adjustable taxable income if we are not doing their tax return: \$ _____

If married / de facto in 2025/2026, what date did this occur: ____ / ____ / ____

~ If you share care for your own children, please advise the % of care allocated to you by the Family Assistance Office: _____ %

Please attach a copy of your previous return if you are a new client

Did an accountant (other than us) prepare your last Income Tax Return? YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please provide contact details of previous accountant: _____

Your bank Account Details for Direct Deposit of Refunds BSB: _____ ACCT NO.: _____

Acct Name: _____

INCOME

Did you receive income from Salary or Wages	YES ☐	NO ☐	Please attach any PAYG Summaries you have received. We can download the rest from the ATO portal. It may be useful to bring along your last payslip for June 2026
Did you receive any allowances, directors' fees, bonuses, cents per kilometre, reimbursements and tips etc.	YES ☐	NO ☐	
DESCRIPTION OF ALLOWANCE:	AMOUNT:		
_____	_____		
_____	_____		
_____	_____		
Did you receive an Employment termination payment?	YES ☐	NO ☐	Please attach ETP Summary if you received one We should be able to download this information from the ATO portal We should be able to download this information from the ATO portal Please attach, if you have received one, any Payment Summary from Super Fund or Life Insurance company or friendly society. Please attach any paper work you received If they do not have your TFN the interest may not appear in the ATO report but you want to be able to claim back the tax withheld.
Did you receive an Aust Gov't allowances or payments e.g. Newstart, Youth Allowance, or Sickness Benefit?	YES ☐	NO ☐	
Did you receive an Aust. Government pension or other similar benefits?	YES ☐	NO ☐	
Did you receive taxable income from Australian Annuities or Superannuation income streams?	YES ☐	NO ☐	
Did you receive any Australian super lump sum payments?	YES ☐	NO ☐	
Did you receive any Interest including bank or ATO from overpayments and pay any associated TFN tax?	YES ☐	NO ☐	
ACCOUNT DETAILS:	TFN WITHHELD	INTEREST AMOUNT:	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	

Did you receive any Dividend income?	YES ☐	NO ☐
Did you Participate in an employee share acquisition scheme?	YES ☐	NO ☐
Did you receive income from partnerships and/or trusts?	YES ☐	NO ☐
Did you receive any business income?	YES ☐	NO ☐
Did you receive any rental income?	YES ☐	NO ☐
If your business is sub-contracting, did you earn the majority of your income from one contract	YES ☐	NO ☐
Have you made deposits to or withdrawals from a farm managed deposit	YES ☐	NO ☐
Did you sell a property during the year?	YES ☐	NO ☐
Did you have any other Capital Gains or losses during the year?	YES ☐	NO ☐
Do you own a property overseas	YES ☐	NO ☐
Did you receive any income from overseas sources?	YES ☐	NO ☐

Dividends from well establish companies should appear on your ATO Report. Otherwise please attach dividend and investment Tax Statements. Note if you are dividend reinvesting you are still required to declare the dividend as income

Please include documents if you have them but the details should be available on the ATO Report

If yes, we will need to discuss with you what additional information may be required. A copy of the partnership or trust tax return would be a good start.

If yes, please complete a Business Schedule which is available on our website: <https://bantacsningi.com.au/services> scroll down to downloads

If yes, please complete the **Rental Schedule** which is available on our website: <https://bantacsningi.com.au/services> scroll down to downloads

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Please attach bank statements for your Farm Management Account.

If your property was not completely covered by the main residence exemption, please fill out our Capital Gain Schedule available here <https://www.bantacs.com.au/media-library/checklists/>

Please bring with you details of how much the asset cost you and any costs since acquisition.

Includes all assets worth more than \$50,000

This includes any inheritances from overseas. <https://www.bantacs.com.au/Jblog/when-you-receive-an-inheritance-from-overseas/#more-1323>

DESCRIPTION OF INCOME

AMOUNT

Did you receive any bonuses from life assurance or friendly society policies?	YES ☐	NO ☐
Did you receive income from forestry managed investments?	YES ☐	NO ☐
Have you received any other income such as discounts or share rights, royalties, scholarships, jury duty etc.	YES ☐	NO ☐

Please attach statements showing amounts received.

Please attach paperwork.

Please attach any supporting documents showing type of income & any tax paid.

Description of Income

AMOUNT

CRYPTO CURRENCY

Did you sell any crypto currency during the last financial year?	YES ☐	NO ☐
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If yes, the simplest way to provide the information required is to obtain a tax report from this web site <https://app.cryptotaxcalculator.io/signup>
Note:
We will also need to know your interest expense if you borrowed money to buy crypto.
Simply trading on currency for another is considered a sale.

Nearly every crypto transaction is subject CGT. It is important the purchase price for each sale is recorded on a first in first out basis unless you can actually match the coins sold, average cost is not allowed. For more detail please read our blog.

<https://www.bantacs.com.au/Jblog/crypto/#more-1033>

DEDUCTIONS – Please see Substantiation notes at the end of this document to help with deductions

Do you use your vehicle for work purposes?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please provide car details below

Car 1 Make and Model

Car 2 Make and Model

Car 1 Number Plate

Car 2 Number Plate

If yes to previous question, do you keep a log book for your car?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please enclose the log book and all the receipts for expenses.
If no, use the kms method (see next).

To use the kms method, a detailed reasonable estimate of the kms travelled for work is required; e.g., a diary for one month which is representative of the whole year or, if spasmodic, a list for each trip. A car provided by your employer, even if salary sacrificed cannot be claimed here.

Kilometres travelled in car 1 for work

kms

Kms travelled in car 2 for work

kms

Do you have any other work-related expenses for travel?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please provide details below or as an attachment.
If no, please skip the next questions.

DESCRIPTION (e.g., parking tolls or taxi/Uber fare)

AMOUNT

Do you have any meal and accommodation receipts?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please attach receipts. Note you will need a travel diary or itinerary if away for more than 5 nights.

DESCRIPTION

AMOUNT

Do you have work related uniform and other clothing expenses

YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please provide details below

DESCRIPTION

AMOUNT

Protective Clothing:

Occupation Specific Clothing:

Non- Compulsory Uniform – Note a non compulsory uniform is only tax deductible if it is a Registered Design and part of a set of clothing not just a single shirt.

Conventional Clothing peculiar to the requirements of your job.

Dry Cleaning:

Laundry (we need the number of loads per week)

Full loads

mixed loads

Education: Did you attend any:

Work related courses at an educational institution?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Or any seminars and courses?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please provide details below

DESCRIPTION

AMOUNT

Student Union Fees (only for educational institution):

Course Fees (please make it clear whether the course is government subsidised i.e. CSP)

Text Books:

Stationery:

Parking:

Other:

Travel (see below)

You can claim the travel from home to your place of education or from work to your place of education, but you cannot claim for the trip from the place of education to your home if you went to work first. So, if you travel from home to the place of education and back home again or for that matter anywhere other than work then you are entitled to claim both legs of the journey.

Car 1 Make and Model

Car 2 Make and Model

Car 1 Number Plate

Car 2 Number Plate

To use the kms method, a detailed reasonable estimate of the kms travelled for work is required; e.g., a diary for one month which is representative of the whole year or, if spasmodic, a list for each trip. Please provide the total kms for the year here. A car provided by your employer, even if salary sacrificed cannot be claimed here.

Kms travelled in car 1 for work education _____ kms

Kms travelled in car 2 for work education _____ kms

Did you incur any expenses in order to work or study from your home?

YES ☐ NO ☐

More details here

<https://www.bantacs.com.au/Jblog/urgent-warning-start-a-diary-of-your-home-office-use-now/#more-1259>

Electricity – Do metre check of amount used by your office per hour

Avg hours per week

Number of weeks

Cost Per Hour

Internet access - apportioned:

% \$

Stationery:

% \$

Telephone calls for work:

% \$

Printer cartridges:

% \$

Alternatively, to the above individual items you can claim 70 cents per hour but you must keep a diary for the full year for more information go to: <https://www.bantacs.com.au/Jblog/urgent-warning-start-a-diary-of-your-home-office-use-now/#more-1259>

Depreciation on Home Office Plant & Equipment – Need 4 week diary showing percentage of work use

Percentage Work Use

Date Purchased.

Amount

Laptop

Printer

Phone

Did you purchase and tools and equipment for work?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please provide details below. **Please attach copy of the invoice**

DESCRIPTION (please see substantiation notes)

AMOUNT

If we did not prepare your tax return last year please check if you had assets allocated to a low value pool (LVP)

YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please provide details below or attach copy of your schedule – hopefully included in your copy of your tax return.

Subscriptions, union fees or professional body fees

YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please provide details below

DESCRIPTION (please see substantiation notes)

AMOUNT

Journals/periodicals

YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please provide details below

DESCRIPTION (please see substantiation notes)

AMOUNT

Sun protection

YES ☐ NO ☐

AMOUNT

Any other work deductions

YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please provide details below

DESCRIPTION (please see substantiation notes)

AMOUNT

Expenses related to dividend and interest income

YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please provide details below

DESCRIPTION (i.e. interest on a loan to purchase shares)

AMOUNT

Gifts and donations

YES ☐

NO ☐

If yes, please provide details below. **Please attach copy of tax receipt for donations over \$2.**

NAME OF DONATION RECIPIENT

AMOUNT

AMOUNT

Cost of managing tax affairs (e.g. tax agent fees): _____

Number of kms travelled to have tax return completed last year: _____

Which car did you use when you saw your accountant? _____

_____ KMs

Make/Model: _____

Do you have any losses carried forward from previous years?

YES ☐

NO ☐

If yes, Please Provide Details Below

AMOUNT

Capital Losses from previous years _____

Non-Primary Production carried forward losses _____

Primary Production carried forward losses: _____

Have you made any personal superannuation contributions to a complying fund or retirement savings account during the year?

(For example, to qualify for the Co-Contribution or a Tax Deduction)

YES ☐

NO ☐

If yes, please provide details below. If you are considering claiming a tax deduction for the contribution please bring with you the form to notify the superannuation fund you will be claiming a tax deduction.

How/When were contributions made: _____

Name of Fund : _____

AMOUNT

Policy Number: _____

Did you make any Superannuation contributions on behalf of spouse

YES ☐

NO ☐

If yes, please provide details below.

AMOUNT

How/When were contributions made: _____

Name of Fund & Policy Number: _____

Do you have a Forestry Management Investment Scheme Deduction

YES ☐

NO ☐

If yes, please attach the statement from the manager and details of any interest expense.

YES ☐

NO ☐

Do you have Income Protection Insurance?

If yes, please provide details below. Note if the income insurance premiums are paid through your superannuation then you can't claim them here.

AMOUNT

Name of Fund & Policy Number: _____

TAX OFFSETS ETC

Did you maintain a person over 16 who is caring for an invalid

Note since 1 July 2014 the tax offsets (rebates) for dependents, including spouses, have been removed. An offset is only available if you maintain someone who is caring for an invalid.

YES

NO

Do you have Private Health Insurance?

YES

NO

Are your spouse and dependent children covered for private hospital health insurance? Note this means covering all children including ones living with you that are not yours and your children who do not live with you

YES

NO

Do you owe any money to any government department (e.g. Child Support, HELP, Family Tax Benefit debts)?

YES

NO

If you paid child support this financial year, please list the amount here:

NO

\$

During the financial year did you live in a remote zone or have you served overseas with the Defence Force?

YES

NO

LOCATION, INCLUDE POSTCODE IF IN AUSTRALIA

NUMBER OF DAYS IF LESS THAN 183

If total days above is less than 183, did you claim a zone rebate last year, if we did not prepare that tax return?

YES

NO

Note: If you lived in a zone for more than 183 days, list the names & dates of birth of your children & if they were in full-time education:

Name

DOB

YES

NO

Name

DOB

YES

NO

Name

DOB

YES

NO

If yes, we will contact you for more information so don't hesitate to tick yes if you are unsure.

We can download these details from the ATO portal

See the map at the bottom of this BANTACS website page to see the area covered by a zone:

<https://www.bantacs.com.au/topics/travelling-workers/>

If No, please list zones for last year as well

OTHER

Are you aware of an entitlement to the Medicare exemption/reduction? For example, because you were covered by the Defence Force or you received notification from Centrelink that your benefit included an exemption from Medicare.

For example, temporary residents on a 457 visa.

Number of days exempt

YES

NO

Residency Status

Resident

Non-resident

Temporary resident

Did you become a tax resident of Australia during the financial year?

YES

NO

Date:

Did you stop being a tax resident of Australia during the financial year?

YES

NO

Date:

Has the ATO notified you that you have been selected for an audit or other type of review?

YES

NO

Did you receive any capital returns on any listed company shares?

YES

NO

DESCRIPTION

AMOUNT

Note, If you are in the army reserves we need to know how many days you served to utilise the Medicare Levy Exemption. e

Note, non-residents and temporary residents are taxed only on income sourced in Australia or subject to CGT on assets that are classified as taxable in Australia.

If yes, please provide a copy of ATO correspondence

If yes, please provide details

Did you participate in any share buyback scheme?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please provide details

DESCRIPTION

AMOUNT

Now Thinking About The Year Ahead

While we are on this train of thought, please consider whether your will and enduring power of attorney are up to date.

BAN TACS now have a package of spreadsheets that can help you get your affairs in order to make your executors job a lot easier. It can also help you estimate the CGT payable on your assets so you can work out the most tax effective and fair way to distribute them. <https://www.bantacs.com.au/shop-2/getting-your-affairs-in-order-made-simple/>

Are you thinking of buying or selling an investment property? If so it is crucial that you speak with your Accountant first. This can be done while preparing your income tax return.

Please tick here to alert us that you need an investment property discussion YES ☐ NO ☐

Substantiation

The following are the substantiation rules that you should be aware of. Under self assessment, you are responsible for making sure your tax return meets the substantiation requirements. Usually, a receipt is required showing the item purchased, the amount, the date and the name of the supplier is required to claim a tax deduction for a work related expense. Private use may need to be apportioned. Many of the following expenses, where there is a portion of private use, require a one month diary or similar record. You can download a spreadsheet to keep these records from the BAN TACS website <https://www.bantacs.com.au/shop-2/diary-template/>

Laundry – You can claim 50 cents per mixed load and \$1 per full load of qualifying uniforms or protective clothing, up to \$150 per year. Simply take your average loads per week and multiply it by the number of weeks you worked.

Less Than \$300 – If you claim less than \$300 in work related expenses such as self education, tools, uniforms, protective items, stationery, union fees, etc you do not need to substantiate your claim with receipts. Any claim you make for motor vehicle expenses or travel costs (includes tolls and parking) is not counted towards the \$300 limit.

Less Than \$10 – If each individual expense is less than \$10 and the total of all such expenses does not exceed \$200 you do not need to keep a receipt but must have a diary entry showing the name of the supplier, date, amount and a description of the purchase. This also applies when you can't get a receipt such as parking meters.

Allowances – Each year the ATO produces a list of what it considers reasonable travel allowances. If your employer pays you an allowance and you do not claim more than the amount listed by the ATO as reasonable you do not have to substantiate with receipts. Though the onus of proof is so onerous that we recommend you keep the receipts so that rather than relying on the ATO discretion you can rely on the legislation. If you are relying on the allowance concessions the ATO will only allow you to claim for certain meals eaten at certain times and if you miss that time a catch up meal can't be claimed. They also expect you to show credit card entries to prove that you were the one who actually paid for the meal and a diary with the details of your trip. It is just easier and safer to keep receipts. If you are away from home for more than 5 nights you will need to keep a travel diary anyway.

The ATO releases what it considers a reasonable overtime meal allowance each year. If you choose to rely on the reasonable allowance concession you can claim up to this amount even if your employer pays you less but you must be paid the allowance under an award. Of course if you keep a receipt you can claim the receipt amount, you are not limited by the reasonable allowance. Further, you are required to purchase a meal while working overtime, it is not enough to purchase a meal on the way home. Consider maybe buying something at lunch time to consume while working overtime, don't forget to keep a receipt just in case. If you haven't, at least pick up a copy of the price list from where you normally purchase your meal.

Home Office – The ATO allows you 70 cents per hour for every hour you are working at home. This covers electricity and maintenance on the room, your mobile, internet, stationary and printer supplies. If you use your phone a lot it is probably better not to use the per hour method. You must keep a diary for the whole year. For more detail <https://www.bantacs.com.au/Jblog/urgent-warning-start-a-diary-of-your-home-office-use-now/#more-1259>

Motor Vehicle – By keeping a diary for one month each year you can claim up to 5,000 kilometres per vehicle you own. If you own a car together with another person and it is only their name on the registration papers they can complete a declaration of joint ownership so you can claim it. You are also considered to be the owner of a car even if it is registered in the name of another family member but you are the one who pays all the expenses relating to it.

Telephone – To claim STD and mobile calls from your home phone go through one month's itemised account and work out the numbers that are work related. This percentage of work related calls can be applied to the mobile and STD calls in the other months. Local calls can be apportioned by keeping a diary for one month noting the ratio of private to work related local calls. Line rental can also be apportioned. If you are claiming the 70 cents an hour home office method you cannot claim your phone.

Mobile Phones – Analyse one month's statement and apply its ratio of work to private calls to the rest of the year. If your phone calls are not listed on the statement print up screen shots of one month's recent calls history and write beside each call whether it was for work or private. This ratio can be used to apportion your phone bill. If you haven't kept records but do need to use your mobile for work you can claim a flat \$50 without records. You cannot claim your mobile if you are using the 70 cents per hour method for home office.

Commissioner's Discretion – If you have sufficient evidence that you have incurred the expense and would have been entitled to a deduction if you had a receipt then the ATO must still allow you the deduction but it needs to be beyond doubt that you incurred the expense.

Work related Travel – Wage earners can claim their motor vehicle expenses when they meet the substantiation requirements and they travel as follows:

- 1) **Bulky Equipment** – Home to work travel is claimable if there is no safe storage at work and as a result you transport bulky equipment between home and work. Safe storage is defined as similar to your own personal locker. Therefore, a container on a building site to which all and sundry has a key is not safe storage. Case S29 prescribed more than 20kg was bulky. Other

cases point more towards 27kg. The ATO gives the example of a ladder and drum kit not because they weigh more than 20kg but because they fulfill the difficulty to carry side of bulky.

2) Abnormal workplace, this is defined in ATO material as:

From your normal workplace to an alternative workplace – for example, a client’s premises – while still on duty and back to your normal workplace or directly home. From your home to an alternative workplace for work purposes and then to your normal workplace or directly home.

This includes being sent to another branch or shop to relieve providing you were not employed predominantly to relieve. It covers seminars and visits to customers. It also includes work related tasks performed on the way home or to work but, note MT 2027, the task cannot be insignificant such as dropping off the mail. But if you have to travel out of your way to drop off the mail you can claim for this extra distance. For more refer TD 96/42 & TD 96/43.

3) Between Jobs – note this includes travel from home when home is the base of operations or work begins there. Home can be considered a base of employment if employment related duties have begun before leaving there, providing those employment related duties did not begin merely for your convenience. The ATO state that working from home during COVID does not make it your base of operations. But recently the ART in Halls case found that your home can count as a base of operations if your employer requires you to work from home.

4) Itinerant work – Your job involves travelling to more than one place of work before you return home. In the case of itinerancy you not only get travel between those places of work but also between home and the first and last place of work. Carers are a good example.

It is good practice to get a letter from your employer stating you need to incur these expenses. Better now than in a couple of years time if you are audited, as you might not be on good terms with your employer at the latter time. Here is a link to a template for the type of letter we recommend. <https://www.bantacs.com.au/media-library/checklists/>

Next Step

Find Our Most Convenient BAN TACS Office

<https://www.bantacs.com.au/aboutus/locations/>

Use Our Mail In Service

<https://www.bantacs.com.au/topics/mail-in-tax-returns/>

Use Our Virtual Tax Return Service via Zoom

<https://www.bantacs.com.au/virtual-tax-returns/centralcoast-office/>