



CrewCare Members - Are you behind on your tax returns?

You are probably aware that it is compulsory in Australia to lodge a tax return each year. However, we've yet to meet anybody who's not too busy to prepare their own tax returns (okay there may be a few in Australia but chances are that's not you).

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is generally perceived to be heavy-handed on those who are behind on their taxes, even if they owe you money. Some of the things the ATO is known to have done are:

- Issue late lodgement penalty notices of \$210 for each period of 28 days that a return is overdue, up to \$1,050 per return.
- Charge interest on any amount owing to the ATO.
- Send regular texts, letters or even phone calls.
- Outsource the collection of outstanding returns to external collection agencies.
- Issue default assessments, meaning the ATO completing your Tax Returns for you which invariably results in a large tax bills you need to spend hours to dispute.
- If the ATO concludes that you are deliberately avoiding fulfilling your tax obligations, in some circumstances they have gone down the prosecution route.

These are just what the ATO can do to you if you are behind on your tax returns. The impact of the 'feeling' that you are always behind and the ATO could hit you with a tax bill anytime can also cause significant stress.

All these are great reasons to have your tax returns up-to-date. In reality though, for some, the prospect of having to spend hours locating documents, researching and preparing their returns and not knowing whether you've done it right, is just overwhelming. Despite this, the vast majority of Australians lodge their tax returns on time. How do they do that? Over 70% of Australians lodge their returns through a tax agent e.g. MGI. We are the good guys who keep you away from the ATO's firing line.

Helping you get back on track

You might be worried that the process is complex and time-consuming. There's no need to. With the following simple steps, we'll get you back on track:

1. We offer an one-hour obligation-free meeting to discuss your tax matters and provide advice on what needs to be done to fulfil your tax obligations.
2. We will send you with a list of documents to provide to us to assist us in completing your tax return. We may be able to access most of your tax records directly from the ATO (yes in all likelihood the ATO knows a lot about you already). This can include information like your wages, private health insurance details, income from bank interest and government agencies such as Centrelink. We will also work with you to see what you may be able to claim as deductions and help you work out how to locate the information needed. There are even some deductions you can claim even without receipts!
3. We will provide step by step guidance along the way and keep you abreast of any progress. If you are concerned about not having enough money to pay your tax bill, in our experience the ATO has shown willingness to allow payment arrangements so you can pay over a period of time, provided you are up-to-date with your tax lodgements.

What if I'm already late???

You might ask: what if I'm already late? We have assisted many clients in getting their tax lodgements up-to-date and have had their late lodgement penalties and interest **reduced**, or even in some cases **fully remitted**. In some cases, the ATO actually owed our clients **refunds** so they walked away not only having met their tax obligations but also a cheque.

Even better news - we are currently offering a **25% discount** to all crew members in association with our partnership with Crew Care.

We have offices all over Australia to help you with getting your taxes up-to-date:

- Adelaide, SA
- Brisbane, Qld
- Cairns, Qld
- Canberra, ACT
- Gold Coast, Qld
- Melbourne, Vic
- Perth, WA
- Sydney, NSW

If you have any queries on lodging your tax returns, please contact us at info@mgisq.com.au with the subject line '**Crew Care**' and a summary of your situation, and one of our friendly tax advisors will contact you to discuss further.

Or alternatively, please call us on **07 3002 4800** and let us know if you would like to know more about this **CrewCare** offer.