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Apply for a TFN

How to apply for a TFN online or by paper depending on your circumstances and residency status. It is free to apply.

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Australian citizens who are at least 15 years old can apply for a TFN online using a Strong Digital ID.

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QC 22602

Australian citizens with a Strong Digital ID – TFN application

Australian citizens who are at least 15 years old can apply for a TFN online using a Strong Digital ID.

Last updated 17 November 2025

Eligibility to apply for a TFN online

Apply for a tax file number (TFN) online using your Digital ID to generally receive it straight away. Once you have your TFN, you can start accessing myGov and ATO online services.

To apply for a TFN online, you must:

- be at least 15 years old
- have a Strong Digital ID, such as a [Strong myID](#).

If you're unable to apply online using your Digital ID, you can apply using another option. See [Australian residents – TFN application](#).

Apply online with myID

To apply for your TFN online using myID, you will need to:

- [Set up your Strong myID](#)
- [Review the terms and conditions](#)
- [Apply for your TFN](#).

Set up your Strong myID

To [set up your Strong myID](#):

- download the [myID app](#) from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store on your compatible smart device
- enter your personal details, including your
 - full name
 - date of birth
 - personal email address – if you have an existing myGov account, the email address you provide for myID needs to match
- verify your **Australian passport** and one of the following Australian identity documents
 - citizenship certificate
 - drivers licence (including learners permit)
 - Medicare card
- verify your photo – a one-off face verification check which involves taking a selfie, that's compared to the photo on your passport. This process checks that you're a real person, the right person and verifying in real time.

Note: If you hold a Western Australian drivers licence, you also have the option to use it to verify your photo and achieve a Strong identity strength – when combined with other identity documents.

To find out how to update your myID email to match your myGov account, see [Updating your myID email address](#).

Apply for your TFN

Once you are ready to apply for your TFN using your [Strong myID](#):

- review and agree to the [Terms and conditions](#)
- select **Continue with Digital ID**

- confirm that you have a Digital ID – if you have an existing myGov account, the email address you provide for myID needs to match
- sign in to your myGov account or create an account – a prompt will ask you to connect your Digital ID
- complete your TFN application.

Apply for your TFN online:



After you apply

In most cases, you should receive your TFN straight away. Your application summary will then include a record of your TFN.

If you do not receive your TFN straight away, your application may need further processing, which can take up to 28 days. If this is the case, a reference number will display on the screen and in your application summary, which can be used to follow up on the progress of your application. If you haven't received your TFN after 28 days, [contact us](#).

Once your online TFN application is processed, your myGov account will be automatically linked to ATO online services. A letter with your TFN will also be sent to your myGov Inbox.

You can then use your Digital ID to sign in to your myGov account and member services, including the ATO. To sign in, select **Sign in with Digital ID** on the myGov Sign in page. Once you access ATO online services using your Digital ID, you must always use it to access ATO online services. This is because it's the most secure access method.

This service may be impacted in part or in full by ATO system maintenance.

For support with known issues or errors and troubleshooting, see [Help and support for online services – individuals](#).

Terms and conditions

By applying online for your TFN, you:

- are consenting to receive your TFN on screen
- are consenting to not receive your TFN by post
- will have the option to download and print your TFN
- will have your myGov account linked to ATO online member services
- have read the [ATO access to myGov terms and conditions and privacy notices](#) and agreed that
 - your myGov Inbox will be your address for the ATO to send communications to electronically. Where an ATO communication is unable to be sent electronically, we will send the communication to the postal address we have on record for you
 - your myGov Inbox will remain your address for the ATO to send electronic communications to that you have not authorised to be sent to your Tax or BAS agent (if you have one). If you have an agent, you may authorise them to receive some or all of your ATO communications electronically
 - myGov may notify you when mail is sent to your myGov Inbox and that you agree to regularly access your myGov Inbox to check for ATO communications
 - you understand that to access ATO online services through myGov, you must use either your Digital ID, myGov security codes or the myGov Code Generator to confirm your identity
- nominate Services Australia on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia to receive and disclose information about you for the purposes of managing your myGov account.

If you don't consent, you can select an alternative method to [apply for a TFN](#).

Australian residents – TFN application

How Australian residents can apply for a tax file number (TFN).

Last updated 17 November 2025

Eligibility to apply for a TFN

Australian residents can apply for a tax file number (TFN) at **any age**. It is free to apply for a TFN.

The fastest way to apply is online using a Digital ID, such as myID. You will need to be at least 15 years old and have a [Strong identity strength](#).

If you're unable to apply online using a Digital ID, use one of the other [options to apply](#).

Are you an Australian resident

You are an Australian resident if you're either an Australian citizen or Australian resident for tax purposes.

If you're unsure of your residency status, check [your tax residency](#).

If you're not an Australian resident, find out how you can apply for a TFN.

Options to apply for a TFN

As an Australian resident, your options to apply for a TFN depend on the identity documents you can provide. You can:

- [apply at Australia Post](#) – using the online form and then presenting your current identity documents at a retail outlet
- [apply at a Services Australia centre](#) – using the paper form
- [apply by post](#) – using the paper form.

Check alternative options for:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – if you can't provide enough identity documents to meet the requirements of the other application options
- Norfolk Island residents – if you're on Norfolk Island and unable to apply online
- Foreign passport holder, permanent migrant or temporary visitors – you can apply online using the Individual Auto Registration (IAR) system.

Apply at Australia Post

You can apply for your TFN at a [participating Australia Post retail outlet](#) if you're able to attend in person. There is no fee for lodging your TFN application with Australia Post.

To apply through Australia Post, you need to:

1. [Complete the online form](#) – the form is not supported by Internet Explorer, so use another browser.
2. Print the application summary, which will include your application reference number.
3. [Find](#) a participating Australia Post outlet near you.
4. Attend a participating Australia Post outlet within 30 days of completing your online form. Take your application summary and current original [proof of identity documents](#) with you.
5. Sign your application at Australia Post to complete your TFN application.

You should receive your TFN within 28 days from when we receive your completed application, after the required documents have been sighted by Australia Post.

To prevent delays, don't lodge another application. We appreciate your patience during the processing period.

If you haven't received your TFN notification letter after 28 days, contact us.

Apply at a Services Australia centre

You can apply in person at a [Services Australia](#) service centre if you're a Centrelink customer. You will need to complete one of the following paper TFN application forms:

- *Tax file number – application or enquiry for individuals* (NAT 1432)
- *Tax file number – application for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people* (NAT 1589) – if you don't have enough identity documents, you will need a referee to complete the proof of identity reference on page 7.

To get a copy, go to our [Publications Ordering Service \(POS\)](#) at iorder.com.au and search '1432', '1589' or 'Tax file number application'.

For the documents you need to provide, see the application instructions or **proof of identity documents**. You must provide Services Australia with current original proof of identity documents.

If you have authorised Centrelink to receive your TFN from the ATO, select **To give to Centrelink** as your reason for needing a TFN. Once we process your application, we'll send your TFN to both you and Centrelink.

Apply by post

If you can't apply through any of the other available channels, you'll need to complete a paper form.

Go to our [Publications Ordering Service \(POS\)](#) at iorder.com.au to get a copy and search '1432' or 'Tax file number – application or enquiry'. You can get a copy of the paper form online or by phone through the [ATO Publication Ordering Service](#).

Complete the TFN application and send it with certified copies of your current original **proof of identity documents** to the address on the form. For help completing the form and proof of identity requirements, see [TFN application or enquiry for individuals – instructions](#).

You must provide **certified copies** of your **proof of identity documents**. Don't send your original identity documents to us as we may not be able to return them to you. We don't accept certified copies of digital identity documents.

Permanent migrants and temporary visitors – TFN application

How permanent migrants and temporary visitors located in Australia with a valid work rights visa apply for a TFN.

Last updated 16 June 2025

Who can apply

Permanent migrants and temporary visitors located in Australia with a work rights visa can apply for a TFN online using the Individual Auto Registration (IAR). Australian citizens cannot use IAR.

If you are a permanent migrant who needs a TFN but cannot use IAR, apply using the [Australian residents – TFN application](#). If you are a temporary visitor who needs a TFN but cannot use IAR, you will need to use the [paper TFN application form for people living outside Australia](#), even if you are currently in Australia.

It is free to apply for a TFN.

To work in Australia, you will need authorisation (a [valid visa](#)) from the Department of Home Affairs. New Zealanders are automatically granted a work rights visa upon arrival into Australia.

You can apply for a TFN using IAR if you meet all the following 3 conditions:

1. You are a permanent migrant or temporary visitor.
2. You are located in Australia.
3. Your visa is one of the following
 - a permanent resident visa
 - a visa with work rights
 - an overseas student visa

- a visa allowing you to stay in Australia indefinitely.

To apply online using IAR, you must have a work rights visa linked to your passport or travel document. If you don't have a work rights visa, you can't apply for a TFN using IAR.

You don't need to send documents to us.

Apply online for a TFN using the IAR

For instructions, see [Online TFN registration – permanent migrants and temporary visitors](#).

For specific help and instructions on the application fields, see [Individual Auto-Registration help](#).

For known issues or errors and troubleshooting, see [Help and support for online services – individuals](#).

Processing your TFN application

Once you have completed your application online, we will post your TFN to the Australian postal address on your application. This can take up to 28 days. We appreciate your patience during the processing period.

To prevent delays in processing your application, **don't** lodge another application.

If you haven't received your TFN notice after 28 days, [contact us](#) and provide your ATO receipt ID.

When you receive your TFN, it's important that you keep your TFN and all your personal information secure to prevent identity theft and fraud.

If you already have a TFN

If you already have a TFN, you can also complete the IAR online application if you:

- want to know your TFN
- want a copy of your TFN notice

- need to confirm your identity details with us.

Valid visas

Valid working visas include:

- Working holiday makers (subclass 417 and 462)
- [Temporary Activity visa ↗](#) (subclass 408).

Asylum seekers may use a bridging visa, and their passport or travel document number will be their ImmiCard number. For previous identification cards, the passport or travel document number will be PLO56 or PL56.

If your visa doesn't have work rights, you are not eligible to apply for a TFN using IAR. Check your visa details and conditions using [VEVO ↗](#). If your visa contains any of the following conditions, you are not eligible to use IAR:

- 8101 NO WORK
- 8103 NO WORK
- 8116 NO WORK/APD ACTIVITY.

If you don't have a valid visa for IAR, refer to Australian residents – TFN application. Alternatively, you may need to use the paper TFN application form for people living outside Australia, even if you are currently in Australia.

QC 22606

People living outside Australia – TFN application

How people living outside Australia with income from an Australian source apply for a tax file number (TFN).

Last updated 16 June 2025

Eligibility to apply

People living outside Australia with income from an Australian source may need to apply for a TFN.

It is **free** to apply for a TFN.

Apply for a TFN if you:

- receive income from an Australian source, other than interest, dividends or royalty payments, such as rental income
- receive income from Australian business interests
- have a spouse who is an Australian resident and is applying for family tax benefit or child care subsidy
- are a member of an Australian superannuation fund that
 - you expect to receive benefits from
 - you intend to make personal contributions to
 - contributions are made to on your behalf
- need to lodge an Australian tax return or apply for an Australian business number (ABN).

For more information about your tax obligations if you live overseas, see [Coming to Australia or going overseas](#).

What you can claim

Use your TFN to claim a refund of any tax withheld, from an Australian bank account or dividends from Australian shares.

Foreign residents of Australia for tax purposes do not need a TFN if they only receive from an Australian source:

- interest
- dividends
- royalty payments.

To find out the rate of tax that your payer should withhold, see [Investment income](#).

How to apply

If you are a foreign resident for tax purposes, to apply for a TFN you will need to complete a paper form.

Download and complete: Tax file number – application or enquiry for individuals living outside Australia.

If you can't download the form, order it either [online](#) or by phoning **1300 720 092**.

Send your completed TFN application and certified copies of your original proof of identity documents to the address on the form.

You must provide certified copies of your proof of identity documents. You don't need to send us your original documents as they may not be returned to you. We don't accept certified copies of digital identity documents.

You should receive your TFN within 28 days from when we receive your completed application and the required documents.

To prevent delays, don't lodge another application. We appreciate your patience during the processing period.

If you haven't received your TFN notification letter after 28 days, contact us.

Keep your TFN and your personal information secure to prevent identity theft and fraud.

QC 22605

Norfolk Island residents – TFN application

How Norfolk Island residents of all ages can apply for a tax file number (TFN).

Last updated 17 November 2025

Eligibility to apply for a TFN

If you're a Norfolk Island resident, you can apply for a tax file number (TFN) at any age. Norfolk Island residents born on the island are Australian citizens if, at the time they are born, a parent is an Australian permanent resident or citizen.

It is **free** to apply for a TFN.

If you are unsure of your residency status, check your tax residency.

Options to apply for a TFN

Norfolk Island residents can apply online using a Digital ID, such as myID, if you're at least 15 years old and have a Strong identity strength.

If you're a permanent migrant or temporary visitor with a foreign passport or travel document and a valid work rights visa, you can apply for a TFN online using Individual Auto Registration (IAR).

If you are unable to use an online application process and you're on the island, you will need to [apply through the Office of the Administrator](#).

Norfolk Island residents on the island don't have an online application process available through Australia Post.

Apply through the Office of the Administrator

To apply in person through the Office of the Administrator:

1. Order the form either [online](#) or by phoning **1300 720 092 – Tax file number – application or enquiry for individuals** (NAT 1432).
2. Complete the application form.
3. Organise your original identity documents.
4. Take your application and original identity documents to the

**NORFOLK ISLAND OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
NEW MILITARY BARRACKS
KINGSTON NORFOLK ISLAND 2899.**

Your TFN application should be processed within 28 days after the Office of the Administrator receives your completed application and required documents.

We will send your TFN notice to the postal address provided on your application.

We appreciate your patience during the processing period. To prevent delays in processing your application, don't lodge another application.

To obtain your TFN over the phone after 28 days, contact us.

QC 51455

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – TFN application

How Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can apply for a tax file number (TFN).

Last updated 1 December 2025

Eligibility to apply for a TFN

Australian residents can apply for a TFN at any age. It is **free** to apply for a TFN.

How to apply

How you apply (online or by post) will depend on if you can use online services and the identity documents you have.

Apply online

You can apply online through:

- ATO online services using a Digital ID, such as [myID](#). You need to
 - be an Australian citizen
 - be at least 15 years old
 - have a [Strong myID](#) identity strength.
- Australia Post. After you complete the online form you will need to
 - print the form and take it when you go to an interview at a [participating Australia Post retail outlet](#)
 - show your **current original** identity documents at the interview.

If you can't apply online you will need to apply by post.

Apply by post

You need to complete the paper form *Tax file number – application or enquiry for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people* (NAT 1589).

To get a copy of the form, you can:

- order it online through the [ATO Publication Ordering Service](#)
- phone the Indigenous helpline on **13 10 30**.

Proof of identity for the paper form

If you can't provide enough documents that prove your identity, you will need to ask an referee who has known you for 12 months or more to complete the **Proof of identity reference** on page 7 of the form.

This must be an **authorised** referee. Examples include:

- a council chairperson
- a community manager
- a school principal
- a minister of religion
- a doctor
- a senior nursing sister
- an authorised government officer, such as a
 - police officer
 - Services Australia agent
 - nurse.

The referee **must not** be a family member.

You can lodge this form be either:

- posting it to the address on page 6 of the form
- going to a [Services Australia centre](#), if you're a Services Australia customer.

Our commitment to you

We are committed to providing you with accurate, consistent and clear information to help you understand your rights and entitlements and meet your obligations.

If you follow our information and it turns out to be incorrect, or it is misleading and you make a mistake as a result, we will take that into account when determining what action, if any, we should take.

Some of the information on this website applies to a specific financial year. This is clearly marked. Make sure you have the information for the right year before making decisions based on that information.

If you feel that our information does not fully cover your circumstances, or you are unsure how it applies to you, contact us or seek professional advice.

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