



Media Release

H&R Block warns taxpayers to be careful when completing their 2011 tax returns, relying on the pre-fill information provided by the Tax Office

H&R Block's Regional Director, Frank Brass says "The pre filling option in tax returns should be used with caution, as the information provided in the pre filling is only as good as the timing of the information being received by the Tax Office, from the relevant organisations and employers."

"If taxpayers rely on pre filling information as the source of the income information to complete their tax return, and the information is not complete, it is the taxpayer who will be audited and will be required to pay back the tax refund and may be charged interest on this money they have incorrectly received".

The information is progressively received from the tax office, and you need to double check that all the information is there, at the time you use the pre-filling function and not just assume it is, generally pre-fill information is not reliable until the later part of tax season, Sept/ October.

"H&R Block will continue to conduct a full interview with our clients, only using the tax office Pre-filling information if a client indicates that they have received some income for which they have no details, we will look it up on the Tax Office Web site. If the information is not there we will ask out client to check with the relevant authority to confirm the income they received for the financial year." "This is the only way we can be sure that the client's Tax Return is correct" says Mr Brass.

Background Information

Pre-filling is a service provided by the Tax Office to make it easier for taxpayers to meet their tax obligations and claim their entitlements. Pre-filling is when a tax return is partially completed, from information supplied by institutions and employers, and all you have to do is review it and add any missing details.

The ATO states that pre-fillers must review all of the pre-filled data. It may be incomplete because:

- an organisation has not supplied data to the Tax Office
- the ATO could not match the data to the Tax Office record, or
- the data did not pass all processing checks.

It is the taxpayer's responsibility to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in their tax return, as they sign it to confirm the tax return is correct and complete, and any omissions may result in the Tax Office amending the return and charging interest penalties.

For further information

Contact
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We take the burden out of Tax

About H&R Block

H&R Block is the largest lodger of tax returns in Australia, through a network of over 400 Company Owned and Franchised Offices throughout Australia.