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## ATO tax return tips

CPA Australia's top tip for employees this tax time is "Don't poke the bear".

Australia's leading professional accounting body says a sure-fire way to do this is to omit income from your tax return.

Senior manager tax policy Elinor Kasapidis said most transactions where money changes hands leave a digital footprint and the ATO has even greater information gathering powers than the police.

"If you're thinking of playing hide and seek with the ATO, don't expect them to close their eyes and count to 10," Ms Kasapidis said.

"Assume they have full line of sight on your income and don't poke the bear."

Other than accountants, Ms Kasapidis agreed that most

people don't find doing tax fun but she said it's worth reminding ourselves of the value of paying taxes and what we receive in return.

"People sometimes forget that paying tax is a good thing," she said.

"The past 18 months is a great reminder of why we do it.

"The economic stimulus that kept millions of Australians and small businesses afloat during the pandemic is being paid for with our taxes."

Each year CPA Australia publishes tax tips for different categories of taxpayers and this week published its tax tips for employees.

"It's legal to maximise your tax refund and that's what we're trying to help people do," Ms Kasapidis said.

"It's not legal to avoid pay-

ing tax, so we're also trying to help people avoid breaking the law."

According to Ms Kasapidis, Australia has one of the most complex tax systems in the world, but for most employees it boils down to a few simple principles:

1. If you earned money, you need to report it.
2. If you can't prove an expense, you can't claim it.
3. If you want to make sure you've got it right, see a tax agent.

"Employees' starting positions should be, if you earned money, you need to report it," she said.

"Then claim your deductions and pay tax on the difference.

"Claiming deductions for work expenses is the single

biggest area where people go wrong; both by claiming too much or not enough.

"The way the tax system works, if you don't claim a deduction, you won't get it.

"Plenty of people miss out because they didn't know to ask.

"Don't copy and paste last year's deductions into this year's return; it's another sure-fire way to poke the bear.

"You can cut your own hair, but you'll get a better result if you see a professional.

"It's the same with completing your tax return.

"If you see a tax agent, you can be confident you're paying the right amount of tax and getting the maximum refund you're entitled to."

CPA Australia has around 6000 registered tax agents.




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We are seeking a journalist with previous country newspaper experience to produce our weekly Myrtleford Times and Alpine Observer, servicing the picturesque Alpine Shire communities of Myrtleford, Bright and Mt Beauty.

The position requires a journalist with a strong work ethic and well-rounded skill set, who has a passion for community newspapers and a real desire to work with volunteer contributors.

Excellent writing, editing, photographic, communication, time management and organisational skills, and the ability to generate ideas into relevant news coverage that matters most to a local readership, will be among your strongest attributes.

The ability to use social media and deliver high quality work under deadline pressure are also a must.

The successful applicant must also have a valid driver's licence.

North East Media is an independent media group publishing award winning publications in print and online across North East Victoria and beyond.

Applications, including covering letter and resume, should be forwarded to:

**Jeff Zeuschner**  
Group Editor  
North East Media  
[jzeuschner@nemedia.com.au](mailto:jzeuschner@nemedia.com.au)





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