



[Home](#) / [General](#) / [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#) / [Tax for individuals](#) / How to get a tax file number (TFN)

How to get a tax file number (TFN)

Before you start work or get Centrelink payments, you need a tax file number (TFN). If you don't have one, you could be paying too much tax.

You can apply using either the:

- [online form](#), or
- [paper form](#).

It can take up to 28 days to receive your TFN.

Online form

You can complete the online form [Australian residents – TFN application \(/individuals/tax-file-number/apply-for-a-tfn/australian-residents---tfn-application/\)](#). You need to print it out, then book an interview at Australia Post – you can do this online too. When you go for the interview, take the printout and supporting documents with you.

Paper form

The paper form is called *Tax file number – application for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people* (NAT 1589). To get one sent to you, phone the Indigenous helpline on **13 10 30**.

If you don't have enough documents to identify you, you need to ask a referee to fill in page 7 of the form. This must be an authorised referee – such as a council chairperson, community manager, school principal, minister of religion, doctor, senior nursing sister or authorised government officer (police officer, Centrelink agent or nurse). Your referee must have known you for 12 months or more.

There are two ways to apply for a TFN using this form:

- [apply at Centrelink](#)
- [post the form and documents to us](#).

Apply at Centrelink

If you're applying for government benefits, you can apply for a TFN at [Centrelink \(http://findus.humanservices.gov.au/\)](http://findus.humanservices.gov.au/). They can help you complete a TFN form and send it back to us when it has been completed.

Post the form and documents to us

You can post the completed form back to us, with copies of your original supporting documents. The supporting documents must be certified by an authorised person.

See also:

- [What is a tax file number? \(/individuals/tax-file-number/\)](#)
- [Keep your TFN safe \(/General/Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-people/Tax-for-individuals/Keep-your-TFN-safe/\)](#)

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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