

# Do your tax prep now

Sophie Elsworth and Anthony Keane



**THIS WEEK'S TO-DO LIST**

**EMPLOYEES** Buy work-related items, such as computers, stationery, digital subscriptions and professional journals, uniforms, protective clothing and tools.

**INVESTORS** Prepay interest on loans or insurance where possible, spend money on property maintenance, sell loss-making shares to offset capital gains elsewhere.

**SUPER FUND MEMBERS** Make tax-deductible and after-tax super contributions to access various caps and incentives.

**BUSINESS OWNERS** Use the instant asset write-off to spend up to \$30,000 per item and claim an immediate deduction on the full amount.

Don't wait until June 30 to start organising your return

MANY Australians have failed to tuck away their receipts, leaving them with a mad dash to get organised ahead of tax time.

As workers, investors and business owners have less than a week to boost this year's refund through taxdeductible spending, new data suggests many are flying blind. Research commissioned by accounting software firm MYOB found that 46 per cent of people haven't bothered to file their receipts.

It found that the younger we are, the less organised we are with our tax. Among people aged 55 and over, 67 per cent stored their receipts during the year, compared with 49 per cent of those aged 25 to 34. MYOB general manager of partners Blake Collins said "it's not too late to get organised". "You have until October to submit your 2018-19 tax return, so if people haven't actually got their receipts sorted yet, now is the time to do it," he said. "It's important you do your research. Go to the ATO website regarding what is tax-deductible."

The research found that 57 per cent of people engage an accountant or tax agent.

H&R Block's director of tax communications, Mark Chapman, said there were easy ways to find a good one.

"The best way is through word of mouth; speak to your family and friends and find out who they use," he said.

"If you don't have that sort of network, take a look at the Tax Practitioners website and you will see all the registered tax agents and you can choose one that is local to you.

"But a referral is always best because if you have someone who is satisfied with their tax agent then you may be, too."

The cost of using a tax professional is tax deductible.

The most pressing issue for taxpayers this week is to sort out their tax-deductible spending, donations, super and health insurance. Once June 30 ticks over, it's too late.

Financial strategist Theo Marinis said personal taxdeductible super contributions must be received and banked before June 30.

"Most funds have a cut-off date before June 30," he said. "With 30 June being on a Sunday, if you plan to do so I strongly recommend you do so by 24 June to ensure you do not miss out or make a mistake."

People wanting to give money to charity and claim a tax deduction for it should donate by Friday rather than wait for the weekend, said Australian Unity Trustees executive general manager Emma Sakellaris. "It is not the date that the donation is made, but the date that it is received that is important for tax deductibility," she said.

Spending on work-related items such as technology or home office materials must be done by Sunday, while property investors should consider spending on maintenance and prepaying interest or insurance this week.

It's a busy time for health insurance, too, and iSelect spokeswoman Laura Crowden said people aged under 31 should think about taking out hospital cover "to avoid being stung with higher premiums later in life due to the Lifetime Health Cover loading".

"Many funds are offering generous deals and incentives to new customers until June 30, including hundreds of dollars in gift cards, airline points, months free or waiving waiting periods," she said.

**Financial Strategies (SA) Pty Ltd trading as Marinis Financial Group**

**T** 08 8130 5130 | **F** 08 8331 9161 | **A** 67 Kensington Road, NORWOOD SA 5067

**E** [admin@marinigroup.com.au](mailto:admin@marinigroup.com.au) | **W** [marinigroup.com.au](http://marinigroup.com.au)

**ABN** 54 083 005 930 5067 | **AFSL No:** 326403

*Reproduced with the permission of The Advertiser*

ADVERTISER.COM.AU MONDAY JUNE 24 2019

MONEYSAVERHQ 35



# Do your tax prep now

Don't wait until June 30 to start organising your return, write **Sophie Elsworth** and **Anthony Keane**

MANY Australians have failed to tuck away their receipts, leaving them with a mad dash to get organised ahead of tax time.

As workers, investors and business owners have less than a week to boost this year's refund through tax-deductible spending, new data suggests many are flying blind. Research commissioned by accounting software firm MYOB found that 46 per cent of people haven't bothered to file their receipts.

It found that the younger you

are, the less organised we are with our tax. Among people aged 55 and over, 67 per cent stored their receipts during the year, compared with 49 per cent of those aged 25 to 34. MYOB general manager of partners Blake Collins said "It's not too late to get organised". "You have until October to submit your 2018-19 tax return, so if people haven't actually got their receipts sorted yet, now is the time to do it," he said. "It's important you

do your research. Go to the ATO website regarding what is tax-deductible."

The research found that 57 per cent of people engage an accountant or tax agent.

H&R Block's director of tax communications, Mark Chapman, said there were easy ways to find a good one.

"The best way is through word of mouth; speak to your family and friends and find out who they use," he said.

"If you don't have that sort of network, take a look at the Tax Practitioners website and you will see all the registered tax agents and you can choose one that is local to you.

"But a referral is always best because if you have someone who is satisfied with their tax agent then you may be, too."

The cost of using a tax professional is tax deductible.

The most pressing issue for taxpayers this week is to sort out their tax-deductible

## THIS WEEK'S TO-DO LIST

**EMPLOYEES** Buy work-related items, such as computers, stationery, digital subscriptions and professional journals, uniforms, protective clothing and tools.

**INVESTORS** Prepay interest on loans or insurance where possible, spend money on property maintenance, sell loss-making shares to offset capital gains elsewhere.

**SUPER FUND MEMBERS** Make tax-deductible and after-tax super contributions to access various caps and incentives.

**BUSINESS OWNERS** Use the instant asset write-off to spend up to \$30,000 per item and claim an immediate deduction on the full amount.



Emma Sakellaris. "It is not the date that the donation is made, but the date that it is received that is important for tax deductibility," she said.

Spending on work-related items such as technology or home office materials must be done by Sunday, while property investors should consider spending on maintenance and repaying interest or insurance this week.

It's a busy time for health insurance, too, and iSelect spokeswoman Laura Crowden said people aged under 31 should think about taking out hospital cover "to avoid being stung with higher premiums later in life due to the Lifetime Health Cover loading".

"People wanting to give generous gifts and incentives to new customers until June 30, including hundreds of dollars in gift cards, airline points, months free or waiving waiting periods," she said.

spending, donations, super and health insurance. Once June 30 ticks over, it's too late.

Financial strategist Theo Marinis said personal tax-deductible super contributions must be received and banked before June 30.

"Most funds have a cut-off date before June 30," he said. "With 30 June being on a

Sunday, if you plan to do so I strongly recommend you do so by 24 June to ensure you do not miss out or make a mistake."

People wanting to give money to charity and claim a tax deduction for it should donate by Friday rather than wait for the weekend, said Australian Unity Trustees executive general manager

## New generations juggle multiple jobs



**MULTI-SKILLED:** Saumya Patel, 23, has a weekend side hustle as a make-up artist. Picture: David Swift

### ANTHONY KEANE

THEY'RE often labelled as lazy, but Millennials are the busiest generation when it comes to juggling more than one job.

Almost two million Australians now have a second job, often simply to afford modern lifestyles, new research has found.

Millennials are most likely to double up, with 13 per cent of people aged 24 to 38 having a second job, according to the Finder.com.au study.

Generation Z – aged under 24 – is the second most likely to work two jobs, at 11 per cent of their age group. Nine per cent of Generation Xers (39-58) have second jobs and only 2 per cent of Baby Boomers do.

Finder spokeswoman Bessie Hassan said gone were the days of sticking to one career path.

"It's become common for people to have a number of careers during their working life and a side hustle is a way Aussies can try out a new job while still earning a steady income," she said.

"With wage growth slowing down, some might be using a side gig to reach their financial goals, while others could be doing so just to keep afloat."

Ms Hassan said people with a side business should start

small, have a plan to scale it up, remember that their full-time job was the main priority, and declare all income to stay out of trouble with the Australian Taxation Office.

MBA Financial Strategists director Darren James said he had seen people with two jobs nominate both for the \$18,200 tax-free threshold and then get hit by a big tax bill. He said managing superannuation was also important, and consolidating multiple accounts would save on fees.

"And manage your budget," Mr James said. "If you don't have a budget it's hard to manage that income from various sources."

Saumya Patel, 23, works full-time in digital marketing, is finishing a business degree, and last year turned her passion for make-up into a side hustle as a make-up artist on weekends.

"Ever since I was young, my father, who has owned his own business for the last 27 years, has always inspired me to start something of my own – any thing for which I am passionate about," she said.

"The two jobs keep me busy and teach me new things every day."

Ms Patel said she aimed to eventually run a large business in the beauty sector.