

Budget **2018**

Lower, fairer and simpler taxes

The Government is building a personal tax system that encourages aspirational Australians to get ahead while being fiscally responsible. The first step will provide tax relief to low and middle income earners, the second step will help tackle bracket creep and the third step will simplify and flatten the system. Together our reforms to company taxes, tax integrity and personal income taxes will build a simpler tax system, reward hardworking Australians and drive a stronger economy.

The plan will be delivered in three steps

Step 1: immediate tax relief for low and middle income earners

The **first** step will deliver tax relief to low and middle income earners to help with cost of living pressures.

The low and middle income tax offset will provide tax relief of up to \$530 to low and middle income earners for the 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 income years. The offset will assist over 10 million Australians and around 4.4 million people will receive the full \$530 benefit for 2018-19. The benefit is in addition to the existing low income tax offset, and will be available on assessment after a taxpayer lodges their tax return.

Step 2: protecting against bracket creep

The **second** step expands tax relief to help protect middle income earners from bracket creep.

From 1 July 2018, the Government will provide a tax cut of up to \$135 per year to around 3 million people by increasing the top threshold of the 32.5 per cent tax bracket from \$87,000 to \$90,000.

When the low and middle income tax offset concludes in 2021-22, the benefits will be locked in by increasing the top threshold of the 19 per cent tax bracket from \$37,000 to \$41,000 and increasing the low income tax offset from \$445 to \$645 from 1 July 2022.

From 1 July 2022 the top threshold of the 32.5 per cent tax bracket will be increased from \$90,000 to \$120,000, providing a tax cut of up to \$1,350 per year.

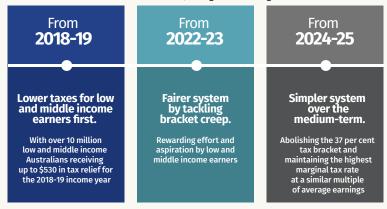
Step 3: making personal taxes simpler and flatter

The **third** step finalises the Government's plan for more Australians to pay less tax by making the system simpler.

From 1 July 2024, the Government will increase the top threshold of the 32.5 per cent tax bracket from \$120,000 to \$200,000, removing the 37 per cent tax bracket completely.

The plan means that around 94 per cent of all taxpayers are projected to face a marginal tax rate of 32.5 per cent or less in 2024-25. This compares with a projected 63 per cent of taxpayers in 2024-25 without change to current settings.

An affordable, responsible plan



A competitive tax system

The Government is building a tax system that is internationally competitive, rewards effort, and underpins a strong economy.

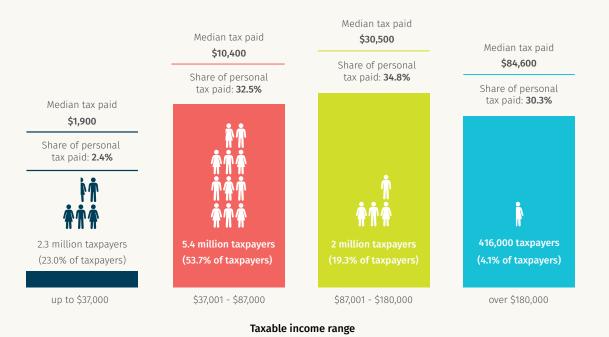
Without sensible tax relief, we risk entering the next decade with a tax system that not only holds Australians back, but puts at risk a stronger economy that can fund our essential services.

We have a progressive income tax system in Australia, but we cannot push this to breaking point and excessively tax a smaller group of taxpayers without paying a heavy price. Penalising Australians for earning more will not create a stronger economy over the next decade. The Government supports a progressive tax system that sustains economic growth and rewards effort. To build a stronger economy – to create jobs and guarantee the essential services that Australians rely on – we must ensure the tax system does not act as a drag on growth and aspiration. There must be reward for effort and incentive to get ahead.

As outlined in the ATO taxation statistics, the personal income tax burden is carried by the few, not the many.

In 2015–16, the top one per cent of taxpayers paid around 17 per cent of the \$186 billion of personal income tax. The top 10 per cent paid around 45 per cent of this total, compared with around 36 per cent 20 years earlier.

Share of personal tax paid, median tax paid and number of taxpayers by taxable income range, 2015-16



Source: Australian Taxation Office, Taxation Statistics, 2015-16, Individuals Table 10A and unpublished personal income tax data.

Note: In this context, a personal income taxpayer is someone who lodged a tax return and paid more than \$0 in personal income tax for the year, for tax returns lodged by 31 October, 2017. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Lower, fairer and simpler taxes

Our tax system must be fair for all Australians, one that rewards effort and fosters aspiration.

To build a strong economy, it is vital that workers are rewarded rather than penalised for their effort by our tax system.

Given personal income tax accounts for over half of the Government's tax revenue, it is imperative to get the settings right and build a better tax system while being fiscally responsible.

The tax burden borne by workers has continued to rise. Bracket creep reduces the rewards for effort, undermines the returns to quality education, and blunts the incentive to work hard, take risks, and succeed.

There were 2.4 million Australians with taxable incomes above \$87,000 in 2015-16, representing 23 per cent of taxpayers, but paying 65 per cent of personal income tax.

The Government's seven-year **Personal Income Tax Plan** will improve incentives to strive for success.

Step one: provide tax relief to low and middle income earners to help with cost of living pressures.

Step two: combat bracket creep.

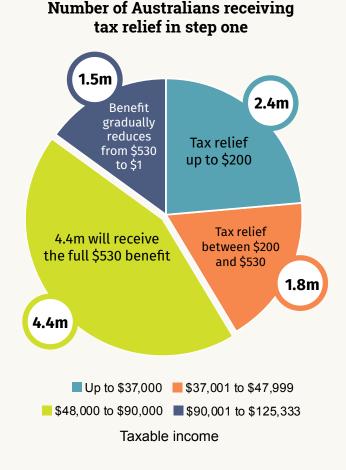
Step three: simplify and flatten the system by removing the 37 per cent tax bracket completely, protecting middle income Australians from bracket creep over their working life.

The plan delivers a tax system that encourages aspirational Australians to get ahead. Individuals will be able to take on additional work and seek advancement, knowing their extra income will not be taxed more harshly.

By 2024–25 around 94 per cent of taxpayers are projected to face a marginal tax rate of 32.5 per cent or less, compared with 63 per cent if we leave the system unchanged.

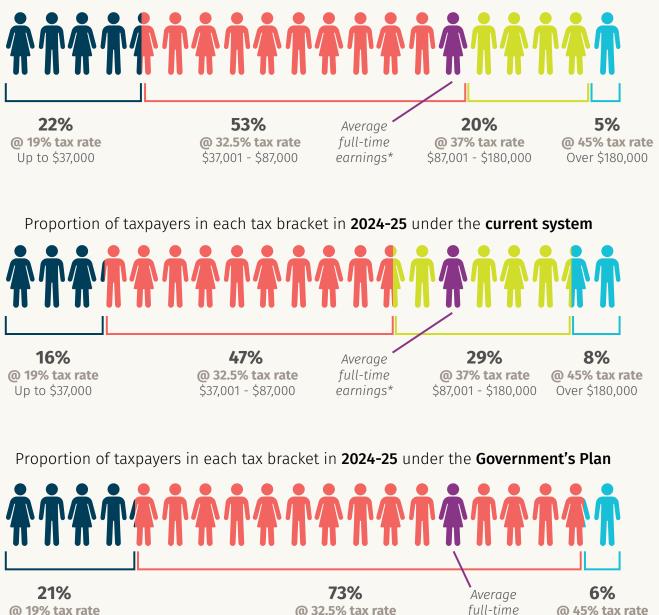
The plan is affordable and funded and will be legislated giving Australians certainty about their future tax relief, now.

Together our reforms to company taxes, tax integrity and personal income taxes build a simpler tax system, reward hard working Australians and drive a stronger economy.



The Government's seven-year Personal Income Tax Plan means more Australians will face lower rates of tax.

Proportion of taxpayers in each tax bracket in 2017-18 under the current system



* Average full-time earnings includes both males and females, and excludes earnings from overtime work

\$41,001 - \$200,000

Up to \$41,000

Over \$200,000

earnings*

Step 1: Immediate relief to low and middle income earners

To help relieve household budget pressures, the Government will provide responsible tax relief to middle and lower income earners of up to \$530 in the 2018–19, 2019–20, 2020–21 and 2021–22 income years through a targeted non-refundable tax offset.

Those earning up to \$37,000 who face a 19 per cent tax rate will have their tax reduced by up to \$200. This will increase incrementally for those earning between \$37,000 and \$48,000. The maximum offset of \$530 will be available to taxpayers earning between \$48,000 and \$90,000. This benefit then gradually reduces to zero at a taxable income of just over \$125,000.

This will assist over 10 million Australians, with around 4.4 million people, including those on average full time earnings, receiving the full \$530 benefit for 2018–19.

The benefit of the offset will be received as a lump sum on assessment after individuals lodge their tax returns. This offset is in addition to the low income tax offset. This targeted approach ensures that tax relief goes to middle and lower income earners.

Step 2: Protecting against bracket creep

From 1 July 2018, the Government will provide a tax cut of up to \$135 per year to around 3 million people by increasing the top threshold of the 32.5 per cent tax bracket from \$87,000 to \$90,000. This will prevent around 200,000 Australians from paying tax at the 37 per cent marginal rate.

From 1 July 2022, the Government will lock in the tax relief from the new offset by increasing the top threshold of the 19 per cent bracket from \$37,000 to \$41,000, providing tax relief of up to \$540 per year, and increasing the low income tax offset from \$445 to \$645.

This change to the 19 per cent bracket will prevent around half a million Australians from paying tax at the 32.5 per cent marginal rate in 2022-23.

In addition, the Government will also provide tax relief of up to \$1,350 per year by increasing the top threshold of the 32.5 per cent bracket from \$90,000 to \$120,000 from 1 July 2022. This is projected to prevent around 1.8 million taxpayers facing the 37 per cent tax rate in 2022-23 due to wages growth and bracket creep.

Benefit of new tax offset gradually reduces from \$90,001 to \$125,333 \$530 to \$1 1.5 million taxpayers Full benefit axable income `***************** \$48,000 to \$90,000 of \$530 4.4 million taxpayers Tax relief between \$200 \$37,001 to \$47,999 and \$530 1.8 million taxpayers Tax relief up to \$37,000 up to \$200 2.4 million taxpayers

The new targeted tax offset will benefit over 10 million low and middle income earners – 2018-19

Step 3: Making personal taxes simpler and flatter

In 2024–25, the Government will simplify and flatten the personal tax system by abolishing the 37 per cent tax bracket entirely. Australians earning more than \$41,000 will only pay 32.5 cents in the dollar all the way up to the top marginal tax rate threshold that will be adjusted to \$200,000.

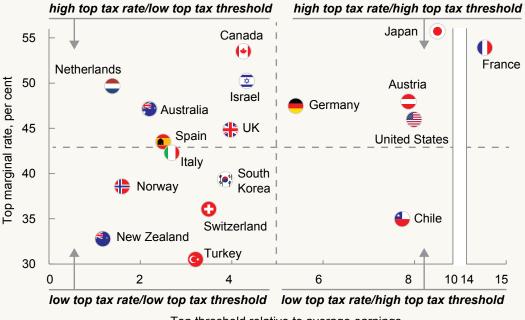
Thresholds in 2017-18	New thresholds in 2024-25		
Up to \$18,200	Up to \$18,200		
\$18,201 - \$37,000	\$18,201 - \$41,000		
\$37,001 - \$87,000	\$41,001 - \$200,000		
\$87,001 - \$180,000	-		
Above \$180,000	Above \$200,000		
	2017-18 Up to \$18,200 \$18,201 - \$37,000 \$37,001 - \$87,000 \$87,001 - \$180,000		

As a result of this final step, around 94 per cent of taxpayers are projected to face a marginal tax rate of 32.5 per cent or less in 2024–25. This compares with a projected 63 per cent of taxpayers in 2024–25 under current settings.

The plan provides certainty to the majority of taxpayers that they will face the same marginal tax rate into the future, helping to improve incentives to take on additional work and seek a pay rise.

Australia has relatively high rates of tax, cutting in at relatively low levels of income compared with other countries. Australia's top marginal tax rate cuts in at around 2.2 times average full-time earnings, compared with four times in Canada and the UK and eight times in the US. Without change, Australia's ratio is projected to drop to around 1.7 reducing our international competitiveness and ability to attract and retain talent. Under the Government's plan, this ratio will fall more modestly to around 1.9.

The plan strikes the right balance between improving the system for all Australians and ensuring that the top earners pay their fair share.



Current top marginal tax rates comparison, selected OECD countries

Top threshold relative to average earnings

Source: Treasury calculations, 2017 OECD Revenue Statistics and Tax Database.

New personal tax rates and thresholds: 2018–19, 2022–23 and 2024–25

Rate (%)	Current tax thresholds Income range (\$)	New tax thresholds From 1 July 2018 Income range (\$)	New tax thresholds From 1 July 2022 Income range (\$)	New tax thresholds From 1 July 2024 Income range (\$)	
Tax free	0 - 18,200	0 - 18,200	0 - 18,200	0 - 18,200	
19	18,201 - 37,000	18,201 - 37,000	18,201 - 41,000	18,201 - 41,000	
32.5	37,001 - 87,000	37,001 - 90,000	41,001 - 120,000	41,001 - 200,000	
37	87,001 - 180,000	90,001 - 180,000	120,001 - 180,000	-	
45	>180,000	>180,000	>180,000	>200,000	
Low and middle income tax offset	-	Up to 530	-	-	
LITO	Up to 445	Up to 445	Up to 645	Up to 645	

Cumulative tax relief under the Government's Personal Income Tax Plan to 2024-25

The table below sums the annual benefit at different income levels under the Government's Personal Income Tax Plan of the targeted non-refundable tax offset, increasing the low income tax offset and changes to income tax thresholds. The benefits are summed from 2018–19 through to the final year of the changes in 2024–25.

Taxable Income:	\$30,000		\$50	\$50,000),000	\$90,000	
	Tax paid**	Tax relief	Tax paid	Tax relief	Tax paid	Tax relief	Tax paid	Tax relief
2018-19	\$2,197	\$200	\$8,017	\$530	\$18,617	\$530	\$22,067	\$665
2019-20	\$4,394	\$400	\$16,034	\$1,060	\$37,234	\$1,060	\$44,134	\$1,330
2020-21	\$6,591	\$600	\$24,051	\$1,590	\$55,851	\$1,590	\$66,201	\$1,995
2021-22	\$8,788	\$800	\$32,068	\$2,120	\$74,468	\$2,120	\$88,268	\$2,660
2022-23	\$10,985	\$1,000	\$40,075	\$2,660	\$93,075	\$2,660	\$110,325	\$3,335
2023-24	\$13,182	\$1,200	\$48,082	\$3,200	\$111,682	\$3,200	\$132,382	\$4,010
2024-25	\$15,379	\$1,400	\$56,089	\$3,740	\$130,289	\$3,740	\$154,439	\$4,685

Table: Cumulative tax relief and tax paid from 2018-19 to 2024-25 under the Government's plan*

Taxable Income:	\$120,000		\$1	160,000	\$2	\$200,000		
	Tax paid	Tax relief	Tax paid	Tax relief	Tax paid	Tax relief		
2018-19	\$34,217	\$215	\$49,897	\$135	\$67,097	\$135		
2019-20	\$68,434	\$430	\$99,794	\$270	\$134,194	\$270		
2020-21	\$102,651	\$645	\$149,691	\$405	\$201,291	\$405		
2021-22	\$136,868	\$860	\$199,588	\$540	\$268,388	\$540		
2022-23	\$169,275	\$2,885	\$247,595	\$2,565	\$333,595	\$2,565		
2023-24	\$201,682	\$4,910	\$295,602	\$4,590	\$398,802	\$4,590		
2024-25	\$234,089	\$6,935	\$341,809	\$8,415	\$458,809	\$11,815		

*The cumulative tax paid is the sum of an individual's annual tax liability relative to the base year of 2017-18 and includes the 2 per cent Medicare levy.

**Tax paid after incorporating the tax relief under the Personal Income Tax Plan.

FACT SHEET Personal Income Tax Plan

Change in household tax paid - Single person household

		From	2018-19	From	2022-23	From 2024-25		
Taxable Income	Current Tax Liability	Tax Liability	Change in Tax	Tax Liability	Change in Tax	Tax Liability	Change ir Tax	
30,000	2,397	2,197	-200	2,197	-200	2,197	-200	
35,000	3,447	3,247	-200	3,247	-200	3,247	-200	
40,000	4,947	4,657	-290	4,492	-455	4,492	-455	
45,000	6,747	6,307	-440	6,207	-540	6,207	-540	
50,000	8,547	8,017	-530	8,007	-540	8,007	-540	
55,000	10,347	9,817	-530	9,807	-540	9,807	-540	
60,000	12,147	11,617	-530	11,607	-540	11,607	-540	
65,000	13,947	13,417	-530	13,407	-540	13,407	-540	
70,000	15,697	15,167	-530	15,157	-540	15,157	-540	
75,000	17,422	16,892	-530	16,882	-540	16,882	-540	
80,000	19,147	18,617	-530	18,607	-540	18,607	-540	
85,000	20,872	20,342	-530	20,332	-540	20,332	-540	
90,000	22,732	22,067	-665	22,057	-675	22,057	-675	
100,000	26,632	26,117	-515	25,507	-1,125	25,507	-1,125	
110,000	30,532	30,167	-365	28,957	-1,575	28,957	-1,575	
120,000	34,432	34,217	-215	32,407	-2,025	32,407	-2,025	
130,000	38,332	38,197	-135	36,307	-2,025	35,857	-2,475	
140,000	42,232	42,097	-135	40,207	-2,025	39,307	-2,925	
160,000	50,032	49,897	-135	48,007	-2,025	46,207	-3,825	
180,000	57,832	57,697	-135	55,807	-2,025	53,107	-4,725	
200,000	67,232	67,097	-135	65,207	-2,025	60,007	-7,225	

Change in household tax paid – Couple with single income earner

				From 2	2018-19	From	2022-23	From 2	2024-25
Taxable Income - Primary Earner	Taxable Income - Spouse	Household Taxable Income	Current Tax Liability	Tax Liability	Change in Tax	Tax Liability	Change in Tax	Tax Liability	Change in Tax
30,000	0	30,000	1,797	1,597	-200	1,597	-200	1,597	-200
35,000	0	35,000	2,747	2,547	-200	2,547	-200	2,547	-200
40,000	0	40,000	4,438	4,148	-290	3,983	-455	3,983	-455
45,000	0	45,000	6,638	6,198	-440	6,098	-540	6,098	-540
50,000	0	50,000	8,547	8,017	-530	8,007	-540	8,007	-540
55,000	0	55,000	10,347	9,817	-530	9,807	-540	9,807	-540
60,000	0	60,000	12,147	11,617	-530	11,607	-540	11,607	-540
65,000	0	65,000	13,947	13,417	-530	13,407	-540	13,407	-540
70,000	0	70,000	15,697	15,167	-530	15,157	-540	15,157	-540
75,000	0	75,000	17,422	16,892	-530	16,882	-540	16,882	-540
80,000	0	80,000	19,147	18,617	-530	18,607	-540	18,607	-540
85,000	0	85,000	20,872	20,342	-530	20,332	-540	20,332	-540
90,000	0	90,000	22,732	22,067	-665	22,057	-675	22,057	-675
100,000	0	100,000	26,632	26,117	-515	25,507	-1,125	25,507	-1,125
110,000	0	110,000	30,532	30,167	-365	28,957	-1,575	28,957	-1,575
120,000	0	120,000	34,432	34,217	-215	32,407	-2,025	32,407	-2,025
130,000	0	130,000	38,332	38,197	-135	36,307	-2,025	35,857	-2,475
140,000	0	140,000	42,232	42,097	-135	40,207	-2,025	39,307	-2,925
160,000	0	160,000	50,032	49,897	-135	48,007	-2,025	46,207	-3,825
180,000	0	180,000	57,832	57,697	-135	55,807	-2,025	53,107	-4,725
200,000	0	200,000	67,232	67,097	-135	65,207	-2,025	60,007	-7,225

Change in household tax paid - Dual income couple - equal income split

Taxable Income - Spouse 1	Taxable Income - Spouse 2	come - Taxable						From	2018-19	From	2022-23	From 2	2024-25
			Current Tax Liability	Tax Liability	Change in Tax	Tax Liability	Change in Tax	Tax Liability	Change in Tax				
30,000	30,000	60,000	4,794	4,394	-400	4,394	-400	4,394	-400				
35,000	35,000	70,000	6,894	6,494	-400	6,494	-400	6,494	-400				
40,000	40,000	80,000	9,894	9,314	-580	8,984	-910	8,984	-910				
45,000	45,000	90,000	13,494	12,614	-880	12,414	-1,080	12,414	-1,080				
50,000	50,000	100,000	17,094	16,034	-1,060	16,014	-1,080	16,014	-1,080				
55,000	55,000	110,000	20,694	19,634	-1,060	19,614	-1,080	19,614	-1,080				
60,000	60,000	120,000	24,294	23,234	-1,060	23,214	-1,080	23,214	-1,080				
65,000	65,000	130,000	27,894	26,834	-1,060	26,814	-1,080	26,814	-1,080				
70,000	70,000	140,000	31,394	30,334	-1,060	30,314	-1,080	30,314	-1,080				
75,000	75,000	150,000	34,844	33,784	-1,060	33,764	-1,080	33,764	-1,080				
80,000	80,000	160,000	38,294	37,234	-1,060	37,214	-1,080	37,214	-1,080				
85,000	85,000	170,000	41,744	40,684	-1,060	40,664	-1,080	40,664	-1,080				
90,000	90,000	180,000	45,464	44,134	-1,330	44,114	-1,350	44,114	-1,350				
100,000	100,000	200,000	53,264	52,234	-1,030	51,014	-2,250	51,014	-2,250				
110,000	110,000	220,000	61,064	60,334	-730	57,914	-3,150	57,914	-3,150				
120,000	120,000	240,000	68,864	68,434	-430	64,814	-4,050	64,814	-4,050				
130,000	130,000	260,000	76,664	76,394	-270	72,614	-4,050	71,714	-4,950				
140,000	140,000	280,000	84,464	84,194	-270	80,414	-4,050	78,614	-5,850				
160,000	160,000	320,000	100,064	99,794	-270	96,014	-4,050	92,414	-7,650				
180,000	180,000	360,000	115,664	115,394	-270	111,614	-4,050	106,214	-9,450				
200,000	200,000	400,000	134,464	134,194	-270	130,414	-4,050	120,014	-14,450				

Change in household tax paid - Dual income couple - two-thirds and one-third split

		Household Taxable Income		From 2	2018-19	From	2022-23	From 2	2024-25
Income - Income	Taxable Income - Spouse		Current Tax Liability	Tax Liability	Change in Tax	Tax Liability	Change in Tax	Tax Liability	Change in Tax
40,200	19,800	60,000	5,019	4,723	-296	4,547	-472	4,547	-472
46,900	23,100	70,000	8,029	7,332	-697	7,289	-740	7,289	-740
53,600	26,400	80,000	11,398	10,668	-730	10,658	-740	10,658	-740
60,300	29,700	90,000	14,589	13,859	-730	13,849	-740	13,849	-740
67,000	33,000	100,000	17,689	16,959	-730	16,949	-740	16,949	-740
73,700	36,300	110,000	20,694	19,964	-730	19,954	-740	19,954	-740
80,400	39,600	120,000	24,088	23,280	-808	23,127	-961	23,127	-961
87,100	42,900	130,000	27,592	26,681	-912	26,508	-1,085	26,508	-1,085
93,800	46,200	140,000	31,393	30,309	-1,084	30,007	-1,386	30,007	-1,386
100,500	49,500	150,000	35,194	34,157	-1,038	33,507	-1,688	33,507	-1,688
107,200	52,800	160,000	38,995	38,058	-937	37,006	-1,989	37,006	-1,989
113,900	56,100	170,000	42,796	41,960	-837	40,506	-2,291	40,506	-2,291
120,600	59,400	180,000	46,597	45,861	-736	44,032	-2,565	44,005	-2,592
134,000	66,000	200,000	54,199	53,534	-665	51,634	-2,565	51,004	-3,195
147,400	72,600	220,000	61,712	61,047	-665	59,147	-2,565	57,914	-3,798
160,800	79,200	240,000	69,215	68,550	-665	66,650	-2,565	64,814	-4,401
174,200	85,800	260,000	76,718	76,053	-665	74,153	-2,565	71,714	-5,004
187,600	92,400	280,000	85,072	84,308	-764	82,264	-2,808	78,614	-6,458
200,000	100,000	300,000	93,864	93,214	-650	90,714	-3,150	85,514	-8,350

Questions and answers

Low and middle income tax offset

When will I receive the benefit of the low and middle income tax offset?

• Individuals will receive the benefit as a lump sum on assessment after lodging their tax return. The offset will apply to individuals' tax returns lodged for the 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 income years.

Can both my spouse and I receive the offset?

• Yes, the entitlement to the offset is on an individual basis.

Will Australians without a tax liability benefit from the offset?

- No, the offset is non-refundable, meaning it can only be used to reduce a taxpayer's income tax liability to zero and cannot be used to reduce the Medicare levy.
- The Government separately provides targeted support to those on low incomes through the transfer and payments system.

What happens to the new offset after 2021-22?

• The offset will be removed but its benefit will be continued by extending the 19 per cent tax bracket from \$37,000 to \$41,000, and increasing the low income tax offset from \$445 to \$645.

Can non-residents receive the offset?

• No, an individual must be an Australian resident for tax purposes.

Will the increase to the low income tax offset (LITO) from 2022-23 affect the seniors and pensioner's tax offset (SAPTO)?

 The new LITO will not affect the entitlement to SAPTO. The maximum SAPTO amount (\$2,230 for singles) and shade-out income threshold (\$32,279 for singles) will remain the same.

Changes to income tax thresholds

When will the benefit of increasing the top threshold of the 32.5 per cent tax bracket from \$87,000 threshold to \$90,000 be received?

• The benefit will be received from 1 July 2018 as part of pay as you go withholding.

Budget repair

Why is the Government prioritising these tax cuts rather than putting the money towards budget repair?

- This plan is affordable and will make personal income tax lower, fairer and simpler. By growing our economy the Government can fund this plan and deliver a stronger Budget to ensure Australia continues to live within its means.
- The plan is fully funded in the forward estimates and medium term fiscal projections, with the underlying cash balance returning to balance in 2019-20 and sustained surpluses thereafter over the medium-term.