

# **Visa Holder's Tax Survival Guide 2026**

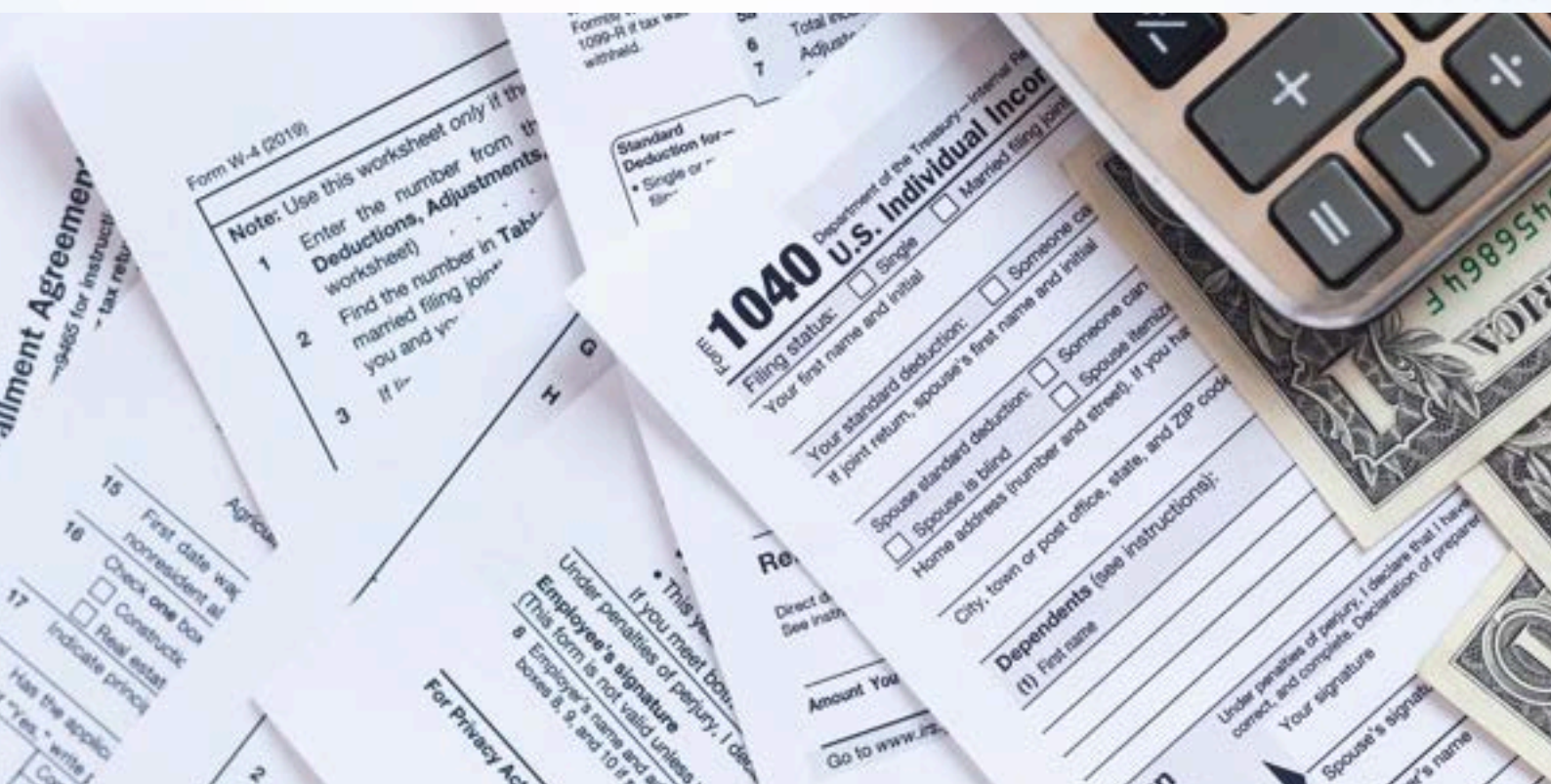
# The Essential Tax Guide for Temporary Residents, 485 Visa Holders and New Permanent Residents in Australia

## Introduction

Every year, we help hundreds of individuals working and living in Australia on temporary visas, graduate visas, employer-sponsored visas and permanent residency pathways.

One thing we consistently see is that many taxpayers unknowingly overpay tax, miss deductions, incorrectly report foreign income, or misunderstand their Medicare and residency obligations.

This guide explains the most common issues we encounter and provides a practical checklist to help you navigate your Australian tax obligations with confidence.



# What Visa Are You On and Why Does It Matter?



## Working Holiday Visa (417 & 462)

### Common issues

- Working holiday maker tax rates
- Residency confusion
- Medicare eligibility



## Temporary Graduate Visa (485)

### Common issues

- Tax residency
- Medicare exemptions
- Foreign income treatment



## Temporary Skill Shortage Visa (482)

### Common issues

- Residency status
- Medicare levy exemptions
- Overseas investments



## Skilled Migration Visas (189, 190, 491)

### Common issues

- PR transition
- Foreign income reporting
- Medicare levy



## Partner Visa Holders

### Common issues

- Medicare access
- Bridging visa periods
- Tax residency

# Are You an Australian Tax Resident?



## Why This Matters

Your residency status affects:



**Tax rates**



**Tax-free threshold**



**Foreign income reporting**



**Medicare levy**



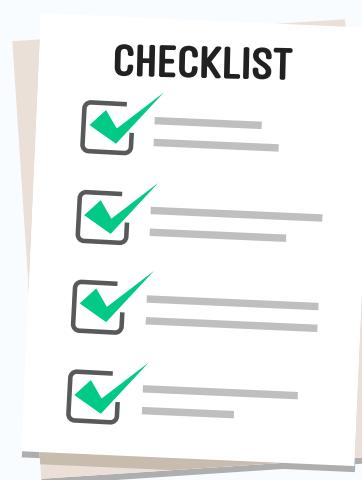
**Capital gains tax**



## Tax Residency Checklist

Ask yourself:

- Do you live in Australia?
- Does your spouse or family live here?
- Do you intend to remain in Australia?
- Do you maintain a home in Australia?
- Are your economic ties primarily in Australia?
- Have you spent most of the year here?



# Permanent Residency Approved? Here's What Changes

When many clients receive PR, they assume nothing changes from a tax perspective.  
In reality:



## Medicare

You may become liable for Medicare levy.



## Foreign Income

Worldwide income may now become relevant.



## Temporary Resident Exemption

May cease to apply.



## Capital Gains Tax

Different rules may apply to foreign assets.



## Private Health Insurance

May become more important if your income exceeds MLS thresholds.

# Medicare Levy & Private Health Insurance Explained



## Medicare Levy

Generally 2% of taxable income.



## Medicare Levy Exemption

Available for certain temporary residents.



## Blue Medicare Card vs PR Grant

Understanding when your exemption actually ends.



## Medicare Levy Surcharge (MLS)

Additional tax for higher income earners without private hospital cover.



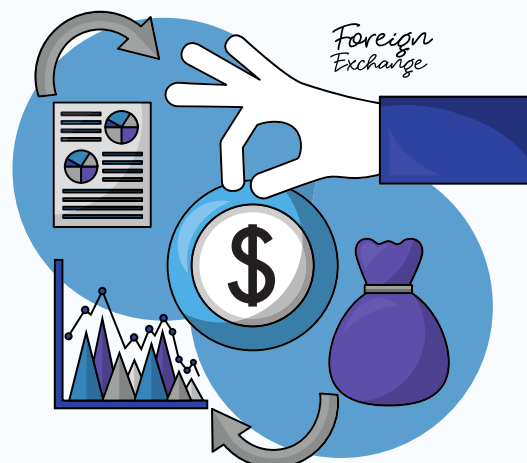
## Lifetime Health Cover

What new PRs should know.

# Foreign Income: What Must Be Reported?

Many migrants still receive:

- ✓ Overseas bank interest
- ✓ Foreign dividends
- ✓ Overseas rental income
- ✓ Foreign pensions
- ✓ Overseas trust distributions
- ✓ Foreign employment income



Understanding whether these amounts are taxable depends on your residency and temporary resident status.



# Shares, Crypto and Investments



## Shares

You may need to report:

- Dividends
- Capital gains
- Employee share schemes



## Crypto

Common taxable events include:

- Selling crypto
- Swapping crypto
- Staking rewards
- Airdrops



## Capital Gains Tax

The 50% CGT discount can be affected by your residency status.



# Documents You Should Keep

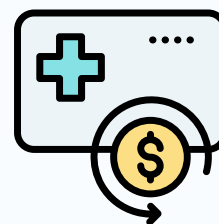
## Residency & Visa

- Passport
- Visa grant notices
- PR approval letters
- Travel records



## Medicare

- Medicare Entitlement Statement
- Medicare card records



## Investments

- Share trading statements
- Crypto transaction reports
- Foreign income statements



## Property

- Rental income summaries
- Loan statements
- Property expenses



# The Top 10 Mistakes We Saw This Tax Season

1



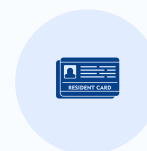
**Claiming a full Medicare exemption after receiving a blue card.**

2



**Not declaring foreign bank interest.**

3



**Assuming PR automatically means resident for the whole year.**

4



**Not reporting crypto disposals.**

5



**Forgetting employee share schemes.**

6



**Missing foreign dividends.**

7



**Claiming private expenses against ABN income.**

8



**Incorrectly claiming the tax-free threshold.**

9



**Not keeping travel records.**









10



**Assuming the ATO doesn't receive overseas data.**

# Quick Reference Summary

Before lodging your next tax return, ask yourself:

	<input type="checkbox"/> Has my visa changed?		<input type="checkbox"/> Did I sell shares?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Did I receive PR?		<input type="checkbox"/> Did I dispose of crypto?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Did I receive a blue Medicare card?		<input type="checkbox"/> Did I start contracting under an ABN?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Did I earn foreign income?		<input type="checkbox"/> Did I buy or sell property?



If you answer "Yes" to any of the above, it's worth reviewing the tax implications before lodging.

