



**Australian Government**

**Australian Taxation Office**

# Refund of franking credits application and instructions 2026

## Our commitment to you

We are committed to providing you with reliable, accessible and useful information to help you understand your rights and entitlements and your obligations.

If you follow our information in this publication and it is either misleading or turns out to be incorrect and you make a mistake as a result, we must still apply the law correctly. If that means you owe us money, you must pay it but we will not charge you a penalty. Also, if you acted reasonably and in good faith we will not charge you interest. If correcting the mistake means we owe you money, we will pay it and pay you any interest you are entitled to.

For more information, go to [ato.gov.au/howyouareprotected](https://ato.gov.au/howyouareprotected)

If you feel that this publication does not fully cover your circumstances, or you are unsure how it applies to you, you can seek further help from us.

Our Charter outlines the commitments we make to you and everyone we work with, our expectations of you and steps you can take if you are not satisfied. For more information, go to [ato.gov.au/ourcharter](https://ato.gov.au/ourcharter)

We regularly revise our publications to take account of any changes to the law, so make sure that you've the latest information. If you are unsure, you can check for more recent information on our website at [ato.gov.au](https://ato.gov.au) or contact us.

This publication was current at **June 2026**.

## What is a refund of franking credits?

### About franking credits

When you own shares or non-share equity interests in a company or when you invest in a managed fund, you might receive dividend distributions.

Dividends you received from Australian companies and some New Zealand companies are taxed under a system known as imputation. The tax the company pays is allocated (or imputed) to you as franking credits attached to the dividends you receive.

Certain interests which aren't shares are treated in a similar way to shares for tax law purposes. These interests are called non-share equity interests.

### When you get a franking credit refund

You can claim a tax refund if the franking credits you receive exceed the tax you've to pay. This is a refund of excess franking credits.

You can claim the refund of the franking credits in the income year you receive payment or credit of the dividends. Your statement shows this information regardless of the income year the statement relates to. You also need to declare the dividend as income in the same income year.

You may receive a refund of the full amount of franking credits you receive, even if you don't usually lodge a tax return.

Follow the *Instructions to complete your refund of franking credits application*.

If you need help contact **Tax Help**, go to [ato.gov.au/taxhelp](https://ato.gov.au/taxhelp)

## Who should use the application for refund of franking credits

Check if you can use this application for a refund of franking credits. All the statements below relate to the income year 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

To use the application for a refund of franking credits, you need to meet all the following criteria:

- You don't need to lodge a tax return (If you're not sure, go to [ato.gov.au/doineedtolodge](https://ato.gov.au/doineedtolodge)).
- You're an Australian resident for tax purposes for the whole of 2025–26 (see, question 2).
- You're **not** claiming a refund of franking credits for a deceased estate.
- Your total dividend income was either
  - \$18,200 or less
  - \$416 or less if you were under 18 years old on 30 June 2026.
- You either
  - receive dividends from shares (or non-share equity interests) in an Australian or New Zealand company
  - have an entitlement to distributions from investments in a managed fund.
- Your dividend or distribution statement shows either
  - franking credits – statements from New Zealand companies must show **Australian franking credits** (New Zealand imputation credits don't qualify)
  - amounts withheld from your dividends because you didn't provide your tax file number (TFN).

If you don't meet all the above criteria, you'll need to lodge a tax return to claim your franking credits.

## Claiming franking credits for prior income years

If you've franking credits from a prior income year, you can claim these online or by post. See, *Instructions for lodging your refund of franking credits application*.

You can't use phone lodgment for prior income year applications.

You can order a *Refund of franking credits application and instructions* (NAT 4105) for the relevant income years on our Publications Ordering Service at [iorder.com.au](https://iorder.com.au), search NAT 4105.

## Common questions about franking credits and refunds

Common questions asked about franking credits and franking credit refunds.

### Distribution statement

Managed funds or unit trusts send a distribution statement, AMMA statement or tax statement to investors. The statement might include unfranked dividends, franked dividends, TFN amounts withheld and franking credits.

You should keep your distribution statement with a copy of your application. **Don't send us a copy of the statement.**

### Dividend statement

Companies send a dividend statement to shareholders and holders of non-share equity interests to advise them of the amount of dividends paid to them. It also advises whether the dividends are franked or unfranked, the amount of franking credit, and TFN amounts withheld (if any).

You should keep your dividend statement with a copy of your application. **Don't send us a copy of the statement.**

### Other amounts on your distribution statement from a managed fund

If you don't need to lodge a tax return, you don't need to worry about amounts such as capital gains, foreign source income and foreign income tax offsets even if your statement tells you to include them at a specific question in the tax return. To process your application, we need only the figures your statement shows at 'franked amounts', 'unfranked amounts', 'franking credit' or 'TFN amounts withheld'.

### Conduit foreign income

Australian corporate entities (companies, trusts or partnerships that pay tax as companies) with certain types of foreign income can declare all or part of an unfranked dividend as conduit foreign income. Show any conduit foreign income as an unfranked dividend in your application.

### Unfranked dividend your distribution statement shows as conduit foreign income

If your distribution statement shows an unfranked dividend and declares it to be conduit foreign income, show this amount in your application as an unfranked amount.

### Unfranked dividend

Unfranked dividends have had no Australian company tax paid on the profits from which they're paid. If the dividend is unfranked, there is no franking credit.

### Refunds for TFN amounts withheld or deducted from interest income

You'll need to lodge a tax return to claim TFN amounts withheld or deducted from interest income.

### Franked dividend

Franked dividends are payment amounts to shareholders and holders of non-share equity interests out of profits where the company already pays the tax.

### Franking credit

A franking credit is your share of tax paid by a company on the profits from which your dividends or distributions are paid. A franking credit is also known as any of the following:

- imputation credit
- imputation tax credit
- imputed credit
- imputed tax credit
- Australian imputed tax credit
- Australian franking credit
- Class C imputation credit
- Class C imputed credit.

## Reinvesting dividends and refund of franking credits

If you reinvest dividends, you can still claim a refund of franking credits.

## Shares or non-share equity interests in joint names with your spouse

If you own shares or non-equity shares in joint names and you can claim a refund of franking credits, use this application. You only state your share of the dividends and franking credits from the joint statement.

Your spouse can also claim a refund of franking credits, they must complete a separate application or lodge a tax return. They should state only their share of the dividends and franking credits.

## Franking credit refunds and your pension entitlement

In most cases receiving a franking credit refund won't affect your pension entitlement. However, if you receive a distribution from a private company or trust, the refund could affect your pension entitlement.

## Owning shares in a New Zealand company and claiming franking credits

Not all New Zealand companies will pay dividends with Australian franking credits. You can only claim a refund of the Australian franking credits on the dividend.

You can't claim a refund of any New Zealand imputation credits.

If you pay New Zealand non-resident withholding tax on the dividend, reduce the amount of franking credits that you can claim by any supplementary dividend.

## New Zealand imputation credit

New Zealand imputation credits are credits arising under New Zealand's imputation system. We can't refund your New Zealand imputation credits.

Australian imputation credits are called franking credits. We refund Australian franking credits attached to dividends you receive from a New Zealand company.

## Declaring supplementary dividend amounts from a New Zealand company

If your dividend statement shows a supplementary dividend amount from a New Zealand company, include this amount as an unfranked dividend. No franking credits are attached to supplementary dividends.

## Instructions to complete your refund of franking credits application

Instructions to help you complete each part of the *Application for a refund of franking credits 2026*.

### Your tax file number (TFN)

Write your TFN in your application. If you're not sure of your TFN or need to apply for one, go to [ato.gov.au/applyfortfn](https://ato.gov.au/applyfortfn)

## Were you an Australian resident for the whole income year

You must be an Australian resident for tax purposes for the whole period 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026 to apply for a refund of franking credits.

We work out your residency using our rules, these aren't the same as those the Department of Home Affairs uses. Generally, you're an Australian resident for tax purposes if you've always been living in Australia or you've come to Australia to live permanently.

To work out your residency status for tax purposes, use our 'Are you a resident?' decision tool at [ato.gov.au/taxresidency](https://ato.gov.au/taxresidency)

## Personal details

Complete these questions **3** to **8** accurately to avoid delays in the processing of your application.

### Your name

Write your full name.

If there was a change to any part of your name since completing your last tax return or refund of franking credits application, print **X** at the **Yes** box.

### Lodging by phone

We need your current name and address on our records before you lodge your application by **phone**. If anything changes or you're unsure what details you last gave us, before you lodge you may need to update your name and contact details. See [ato.gov.au/updatedetails](https://ato.gov.au/updatedetails)

### Lodging by post

If you'll be lodging your application form by post, we need to have your current name on our records. If there was a change to your name or you're unsure what name you last gave us, before you lodge you may need to update your name. See [ato.gov.au/updatedetails](https://ato.gov.au/updatedetails)

### Your postal address

Write the address you want your mail sent.

If you've had a change of address since completing your last tax return or refund of franking credits application, print **X** at the **Yes** box.

If there was a change to your address or you're unsure what details you last gave us, before you lodge you may need to update your contact details. Go to [ato.gov.au/updatedetails](https://ato.gov.au/updatedetails)

### Your home address

If your home address is different to your postal address, print **X** at the **Yes** box. Write your home address.

### Your date of birth

Write your date of birth as, DD/MM/YYYY.

### Your daytime phone number

Write your daytime phone number, including area code. We'll use this number to contact you if we need to ask you about your application.

## Electronic funds transfer (EFT)

To receive a direct refund, complete your account details even if you've provided them to us before. We can accept joint accounts details where the account is held in your legal name.

Complete the following:

- BSB number (this number has 6 digits, don't include spaces or hyphens)
- account number (this number has no more than 9 digits, don't include spaces or hyphens)
- account name, as it appears on the bank account records. Include blank spaces where required. If the account name exceeds 32 characters, provide only the first 32 characters.

If you don't provide valid Australian financial institution account details, we may hold your refund for up to 90 days while we request these details from you.

## Dividends

If you receive a distribution statement from a managed fund or Australian franking credits from a New Zealand company, print **X** in the **Yes** box.

If you've more than one dividend or distribution statement, you can use the *Worksheet – Refund of franking credits* to help you calculate the amounts to show at this question.

At this question, write at:

- label **S** – your unfranked amount
- label **T** – your franked amount
- label **U** – your franking credit (also known as imputation credit)
- label **V** – TFN amounts withheld or deducted from dividends (if applicable).

'TFN amounts withheld from dividends' are withheld only if you don't provide your TFN to the investment body.

A dividend statement from a New Zealand company will show the amount of Australian franking credits (if any) you can claim.

## Total dividend income

Total dividend income is the total of your unfranked dividends, franked dividends and franking credits.

Add up the amounts at labels **S**, **T** and **U**, and in your application and write the total at **TOTAL DIVIDEND INCOME**.

## Declaration

Read the declaration information and then sign and date the application form.

## Instructions to complete the refund of franking credits worksheet

Use the worksheet and step-by-step instructions to work out the amounts to report at question **10**.

## Step 1: Collect all your dividend and distribution statements

For dividends you receive and for distributions you've an entitlement to for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, collect all the statements.

If you've more than one dividend or distribution statement, complete the worksheet and calculate the amounts to show at **Dividends** in your application.

Using steps 2 to 4, transfer the information from each statement to the appropriate columns in the worksheet.

## Step 2: Company or fund name

Write the company or fund name your statement shows in column **Company or fund**.

## Step 3: Unfranked, franked and franking credit amounts

Write the amount of any unfranked (or supplementary), franked or franking credit amounts in the appropriate columns 2, 3, and 4.

Subtract the amount of any supplementary dividend from the amount of franking credits in your worksheet if all the following apply:

- Your dividend is from a New Zealand company
- That New Zealand company pays you Australian franking dividends and a supplementary dividend
- You pay New Zealand non-resident withholding tax on the dividends the New Zealand company pays you.

Don't include New Zealand imputation credits in the **Franking credit** column (only include Australian franking credits).

If your statement doesn't show the franked and unfranked portions of the dividend, include the total dividend amount in **Franked amount** column.

## Step 4: TFN amounts withhold

Write any TFN amounts withheld (or deducted) from dividends in the **TFN amount withheld** column.

'TFN amounts withheld' are amounts withheld or deducted by the company or managed fund because you don't give them your TFN.

## Step 5: Total the amounts in columns 2, 3, 4, and 5

Total the amounts you enter in each column and write the total in the total field for each.

If you use the excel worksheet, it'll automatically provide a total for the amounts you enter in each column.

## Step 6: Complete Dividends question

Print **X** at the **Yes** box at **Dividends** question in your application, if you receive:

- any dividend distributions from a managed fund
- Australian franking credits from a dividend paid by a New Zealand company.

**Step 7: Transfer total at columns 2, 3 and 4 to Dividends question**

Transfer the amounts of unfranked amount, franked amount and franking credit from your worksheet to question 10 – labels **S**, **T** and **U** in your application. Don't show cents.

**Step 8: Transfer total at column 5 to Dividends question**

Transfer the total **TFN amount withheld** amount from your worksheet to question 10 – label **V** in your application. Show cents.

**Worksheet – Refund of franking credits for individuals**

This worksheet will help you if you've more than one dividend or distribution statement. Access an excel version of the Refund of franking credits for individuals worksheet (XLSX 25 KB).

Transfer the totals for labels **S**, **T** and **U** to your application. Don't show cents.

Transfer the total for label **V** to your application. Show cents.

**Worksheet**

This worksheet will help you if you've more than one dividend or distribution statement.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Company or fund	Unfranked amount <b>S</b>	Franked amount <b>T</b>	Franking credit <b>U</b>	TFN amount withheld <b>V</b>
	\$ cents	\$ cents	\$ cents	\$ cents
<b>Total</b>	<b>S</b> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<b>T</b> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<b>U</b> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<b>V</b> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

Transfer the totals for labels **S**, **T** and **U** to your application. Don't show cents.  
Transfer the total for label **V** to your application. Show cents.

This worksheet is to help you work out the amounts you need to put in your application. You don't need to send this worksheet to us.

**Example: refund of franking credits worksheet**

Steven receives a dividend statement from Teleco Ltd. His statement shows a franked amount of \$42.00 and a franking credit of \$18.00.

The statement below is just an example, there are many different formats of statements.

Teleco Ltd					
STEVEN McKAY 2 Cable Circle Telegraph Point NSW 2441		<b>Security holder reference number</b> 018 012 111		<b>Date paid</b> 30 October 2025	
Fully franked final dividend for the period ended 30 June 2025. Franked at a 30% tax rate.					
Class description	Dividend rate per ordinary share	Number of ordinary shares	Franking credit	Unfranked amount	Franked amount
Ordinary shares	7 cents	600	\$18.00		\$42.00
TFN quoted					Dividend paid <b>\$42.00</b>

Steven also receives 3 other dividend statements from:

- **JT Corporate Unit Trust**; Steven's dividend statement shows \$120.73 unfranked amount.
- **Koles Bier Pty Ltd**; Steven didn't give the company his TFN so his entitlement of \$180 unfranked amount had \$84.60 tax withheld (therefore he actually receives \$95.40).
- **SDW Managed Investment Fund**; Steven's distribution statement shows a franked dividend amount of \$131 and a franking credit of \$56.14.

**Steven's worksheet**

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Company or fund	Unfranked amount <b>S</b>	Franked amount <b>T</b>	Franking credit <b>U</b>	TFN amount withheld <b>V</b>
	\$ cents	\$ cents	\$ cents	\$ cents
Teleco Ltd		\$42.00	\$18.00	
JT Corp Unit Trust	\$120.73			
Koles Bier Pty Ltd	\$180.00*			\$84.60
SDW Fund		\$131.00	\$56.14	
<b>Total</b>	<b>S</b> [ ] [ ] 3 0 0 0 . 7 3	<b>T</b> [ ] [ ] 1 7 3 . 0 0	<b>U</b> [ ] [ ] 7 4 . 1 4	<b>V</b> [ ] [ ] 8 4 . 6 0

Transfer the totals for labels **S**, **T** and **U** to your application. Don't show cents.  
Transfer the total for label **V** to your application. Show cents.

\* This amount includes both the amount Steven receives and the TFN amount withheld (\$95.40 + \$84.60).

Steven completes the dividend details at question 10 in his application like this:

**10 Dividends**

If you have more than one dividend or distribution statement, see the instructions.

**Did you receive any dividend distributions from a managed fund or Australian franking credits from a New Zealand company?** Yes

For more information, see the instructions.

Unfranked amount **S** [ ] [ ] , 3 0 0 0 . ~~XX~~

Franked amount **T** [ ] [ ] , 1 7 3 . ~~XX~~

Franking credit **U** [ ] [ ] , [ ] 7 4 . ~~XX~~

Show dollars and cents  
TFN amounts withheld from dividends **V** [ ] [ ] , [ ] 8 4 . 6 0

Steven will receive a refund of \$158.60 if he has no outstanding tax debts.  
TFN amount withheld + Franking credit = Refund **\$84.60 + \$74 = \$158.60**.

## Instructions to lodge your refund of franking credits application

Instructions for lodging your application once you complete and sign it.

### Lodging online

Lodging online allows us to complete your form using your personal details and the dividend records that third-parties report to us. This will save you time and make your claim more accurate.

You'll need to have a myGov account and link it to the ATO. For more information, see [ato.gov.au/createmgovaccount](https://ato.gov.au/createmgovaccount)

Once you've logged into your ATO online account, from the menu at the top select **Tax**, then **Lodgments**, then **Refund of franking credits**.

### Lodging by phone

You'll need your TFN.

Check that you satisfy all the conditions on *Who should use the application for refund of franking credits* before trying to lodge this application by phone.

- Complete your *Application for refund of franking credits for individuals 2026*.
- Phone the lodgment service on **13 28 65**, provide your TFN and press **2**.
- Listen to the questions which we base on the application.
- Speak naturally, as in normal conversation. There is no need to slow down.
- Say all the numbers individually – for example, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4. For 0, say 'zero' or 'nought'.
- If you need help with a question, say 'help'.
- If you need a question repeated, say 'repeat'.
- If you hear a message saying 'I'm having trouble getting that', the system will ask you to try again, or the service might ask you to use your phone keypad instead. Wait for the question to finish, then speak clearly when answering.
- Listen carefully because at certain questions the information you've provided will be read back to you to allow you to confirm it is correct. If you've made a mistake you'll be given the opportunity to correct the details.
- If you hang up or have to leave the phone call because of a problem with the system, the information you've provided will be retained when you return to continue with your lodgment.
- At the end of the phone call you'll be given a receipt number to confirm that your application has been lodged. Write the number in the boxes provided on page 2 of your application, above your signature.
- Your phone call will be recorded in case we need to refer to it later.
- Wait for the receipt number before you hang up. Don't post your paper application to us, but keep it for your records.

### Phone lodgment benefits

- The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (to avoid busy periods, phone before midday, after 5.00 pm or on weekends).
- It is available from anywhere in Australia.

- Most refunds are issued within 12 business days.
- It takes less than 7 minutes to lodge your application.
- However, you can't use this service to lodge for previous years – only for 2025–26.

**⚠** Do we have your current name, address and financial account details? If you've changed any of these details or are unsure what details you last gave us, then before lodging your application, phone us on **13 28 61**.

### Lodging by post

We'll process applications lodged by post within 50 business days.

You can post your application to:

**Australian Taxation Office**  
**GPO Box 9845**  
(insert the name and postcode of your nearest capital city)

For example:

**Australian Taxation Office**  
**GPO Box 9845**  
**SYDNEY NSW 2001**

### How to make an amendment or change to your application

Instructions for making a change to your application after you lodge it.

If you need to change the dividend or distribution details you lodge with us, write to us explaining the change require. **Don't lodge another application.**

In your letter include:

- your TFN
- your contact details
- explain the change you require.

Make sure you sign and date the letter and include the following declaration:

**I declare that all the information I have given in this letter is true and correct.**

If you claim too much franking credit, you might have to repay the extra amount with interest.

If your income increases, check whether you need to lodge a tax return as a result of the increase. If you're unsure, phone **13 28 61**.

Post your application to us. See **Lodging by post**.









