

## Cover your assets



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Here is another reminder to ensure your assets are fully disclosed in your annual tax return.

Investigations are underway for over one hundred Australian's who own assets in offshore structures as well as the accountants, lawyers and advisors who represent them.

"These arrangements may be perfectly legitimate or may involve tax avoidance, evasion or other serious offences by taxpayers and we need to look closely at the information we now hold," Tax Commissioner Chris Jordan said.

It is noted, it is not illegal to use an international structure. However, offshore structures can be used for false loans, inflated tax deductions, hiding assets and other arrangements to avoid or evade tax liabilities.

The cases in review involve tens of

millions of dollars in suspected tax avoidance through the use of shell companies and trusts around the world. Two cases have already been referred for criminal investigations and more than thirty audits are underway.

Here is what you can do to ensure all the right information is inputted into your annual tax return:

Generally anything that earns you an income over the tax threshold will need to be recorded for tax. It does not matter if an asset is overseas, you will be taxed on your worldwide income.

You will need to keep records of:

- payments you've received - such as bank statements showing interest, statements showing dividends or distributions,
- expenses related to your investments,
- payments, expenses and other transactions relating to capital gains tax assets.

And all records need to be obtained for five years.

Always seek professional advice. Contact Tax Matters today on (03) 9416 1679 or email [info@taxmatters.net.au](mailto:info@taxmatters.net.au).