

Be wary of scammers



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While waiting to receive income tax refunds, or for those individuals who are lodging income tax returns by the 31 October deadline, be wary.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) will sometimes contact individuals with emails, SMS messages or official social media updates, advising of new services.

The ATO will never request personal or financial information by SMS or email.

Scams sent to taxpayers, may include the latest ATO website imagery and the names and signatures of real ATO staff. Personal information scammers may ask you for your Tax File Number, your full name, address and date of birth.

New statistics, show scams reported to the ATO last year more than doubled in the month of September of 2,465 to 6,593 in October. Proving, the highest time for

scams, is between September and October.

“Scammers are out to get taxpayers hurrying to lodge their return by the deadline,” said Chief Technology Officer Todd Heather. “People should be on the lookout for tax scams and report them to us directly.”

“People should also be aware of a nasty phone scam where taxpayers are threatened with arrest if they do not pay a fake tax debt over the phone.”

If you do receive a telephone, email or SMS that you think may be a scam, contact the ATO on 1800 060 062 (8.00am–6.00pm, Monday to Friday).

“When the public reports a scam to the ATO we work with our local and international partner agencies to shut down the scam website and pursue the scammers directly,” said Mr Heather.

The ATO has launched a video campaign which you can view at: www.ato.gov.au/identitycrime, with helpful tips for the taxpayer, on how to protect your personal information from scams.

Have you completed your tax return as yet? Let the professionals do the work, while you enjoy your time, doing what you love to do. Speak with our tax specialists at Tax Matters and Business Affairs.

To book an appointment, simply call (03) 9416 1679 or email: info@taxmatters.net.au.