

## Nominating Your Tax Agent

The ATO has started an Agent Nomination Pilot Program to strengthen cyber security and minimize the emerging risks of data breaches and cyber threats. This program aims to create a stronger level of security by increasing identity verification when using government services.

If you are engaging a registered tax agent for the first time or switching to a new tax agent, you will soon be required to nominate them first, authorising your tax agent to access your personal information. Phase 1 of implementation only applies to the Top 100 and Top 1,000 public & multinational businesses and superfunds who should have received notification of this new requirement. However, it will be rolled out to all business owners over time including those operating as a sole trader.

### Why has this changed?

The ATO has a responsibility to protect your personal information. After the Optus security breach, they are battling as many as 3 million attempted cyber hacks every month. The stolen identity data can be misused for fraudulent activities including identity theft and financial fraud. As a result, this new layer of security helps you to keep unauthorised users out of your personal information.

### How can I nominate a Tax Agent?

1. Setup your MyGovID. This is a new requirement which adds additional security and allows you to prove your identity.
2. Connect your MyGovID to your business, using the relationship authorisation manager (RAM). Directly connect your ABN to your new MyGovID.
3. Login to online services for business and use the Agent Nominations feature. Ensure you enter the name and details of your tax agent correctly.

### Notify your Tax Agent

Contact your tax agent immediately to let them know you have nominated them; they will have only four days to accept the nomination once you have submitted it.

### Key Takeaways

- + These changes do not apply to everyone but will be rolled out in phases going forward.
- + Setup your MyGovID as soon as you can. It will be a requirement for everyone in the future.
- + These changes are designed to provide extra security for you and your personal information.
- + If you need help with the setup – contact your tax agent for assistance.

### ATO Resources and Step by Step Guides



Setup your  
[MyGovID](#)



Link your ABN and  
[MyGovID](#)



Nominate your new  
[Tax Agent](#)