

# Navigating 'complicated' tax systems

More and more taxpayers are failing to cope with Australia's "extremely complicated" taxation system than ever before, with the accessibility of online filing driving a growing number of people away from seeking expert advice.

Individuals and small-to-medium size businesses, in particular, can be accused by the Australian Taxation Office of lodging an incorrect return after filling out tax returns online. It's often due to a lack of understanding about the system, the head of an accountancy business says.

For more than 25 years, Mark Antony Guest and his chartered accountancy firm Antony Syndicate have been helping Australian taxpayers by looking after their accounting affairs and providing advice to businesses and individuals.

The Antony Syndicate founder says most tax problems arise when businesses or taxpayers try to address their obligations without using qualified and professional help.

"It is becoming more of an issue now because everything is becoming computerised," Guest says.

"For those who are living in denial, it is all going to backfire."

While many millions of taxpayers are paying more than their fair share, others cheat the system either because they have to pay their bills and rent or because they can easily do so, he says.

This is specifically seen in small businesses, some of which are not paying goods and services tax (GST), or correct employee superannuation and wages.

"In a perfect world there wouldn't be unethical or crooked professionals getting



Expert advice can take the stress out of tax commitments; inset, Mark Guest. Photo: (Main) AAP

paid a fortune to enable their clients to avoid tax," he says.

"Also, Australian small business wouldn't be competing against multinationals and overseas business competitors that pay a massively lower amount of tax and government charges. The real world result is our present tax system and laws."

Guest says it is crucial both individuals and small-to-medium-size businesses paying a great deal of tax source expert advice to ensure they follow correct processes.

"Don't risk running your business in an illegal manner. Whatever your life situation, you should have a good accountant you can

talk to about all sorts of issues," he says.

"Using a registered tax agent is a massive insurance policy. We protect you from a complicated tax system."

Antony Syndicate has extensive corporate, government, small business and international accounting and consulting experience and focuses on the provision of accountancy, tax, business advice and consulting services to Australian businesses, property owners, superannuation funds and employees.

It provides outsourced bookkeeping and accounting services for the SME sector, allowing individuals and companies to remain focused on running their companies, generating sales and building their customer base.

Guest says Antony Syndicate is itself a small business, which allows his team to build lifetime relationships with customers, devote the time to client tax and business requirements and be available by phone or via email - unlike some larger accountancy firms. He says receiving qualified tax advice, having someone to rely on and expert guidance helps avoid future tax problems and protect individuals and businesses.



## With Antony Syndicate your business is in great hands

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Antony Syndicate services the accounting, GST, tax and financial needs of business organisations, their employees and investors.

We focus on accountancy excellence, taxation, management consulting, business advice, profit performance, wealth protection and contract treasury operations.

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