



## NEWS ADVISORY

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### **CLAIMING OF SUPERANNUATION BENEFITS FROM AUSTRALIA**

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration is calling the attention of all those who have worked in Australia using a temporary resident visa (subclass 4571) and who have departed permanently from Australia. Here is how workers can get their superannuation claims from the Australian Tax Office.

Superannuation are payments received from the Australian employer in addition to salaries or wages that are invested in a superannuation fund and held until the workers retirement. If a worker has departed permanently from Australia for whatever cause – completion of contract, termination, resignation, illness, etc. – he can claim back his superannuation contribution through several ways:

First, by applying online at the Australian Tax Office website at [www.ato.gov.au/departaustralia](http://www.ato.gov.au/departaustralia) while still in Australia. Or, if a worker has already left Australia and his visa has already expired or been cancelled, he can go to the website, download the application form, complete it and send it to the Superfund (if less than AU\$5000) or the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (if AU\$5,000 or more).

Another way is availing of the services of accounting firms who will lodge the claim in the workers behalf. These entities, however, charge fees that average from around AU\$135-AU\$155. Some of them have online services such as [www.mysuperclaim.com](http://www.mysuperclaim.com) or [www.backpackertaxrefunds.com.au](http://www.backpackertaxrefunds.com.au). However, the Philippine Embassy in Canberra does not make any warranty nor endorses the services of these private entities.

In the online application, workers will be asked to indicate personal details such as name and date of birth, passport number, superannuation fund details like the name of the superannuation fund and account number, and Australian tax file number. It takes about 28 days to process the application.

For more details, please visit [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au). ###