



Phriendly  
Phishing

# WHAT THE AUSTRALIAN TAX OFFICE (ATO) WON'T DO

Protect yourself from cyber  
scams this tax season





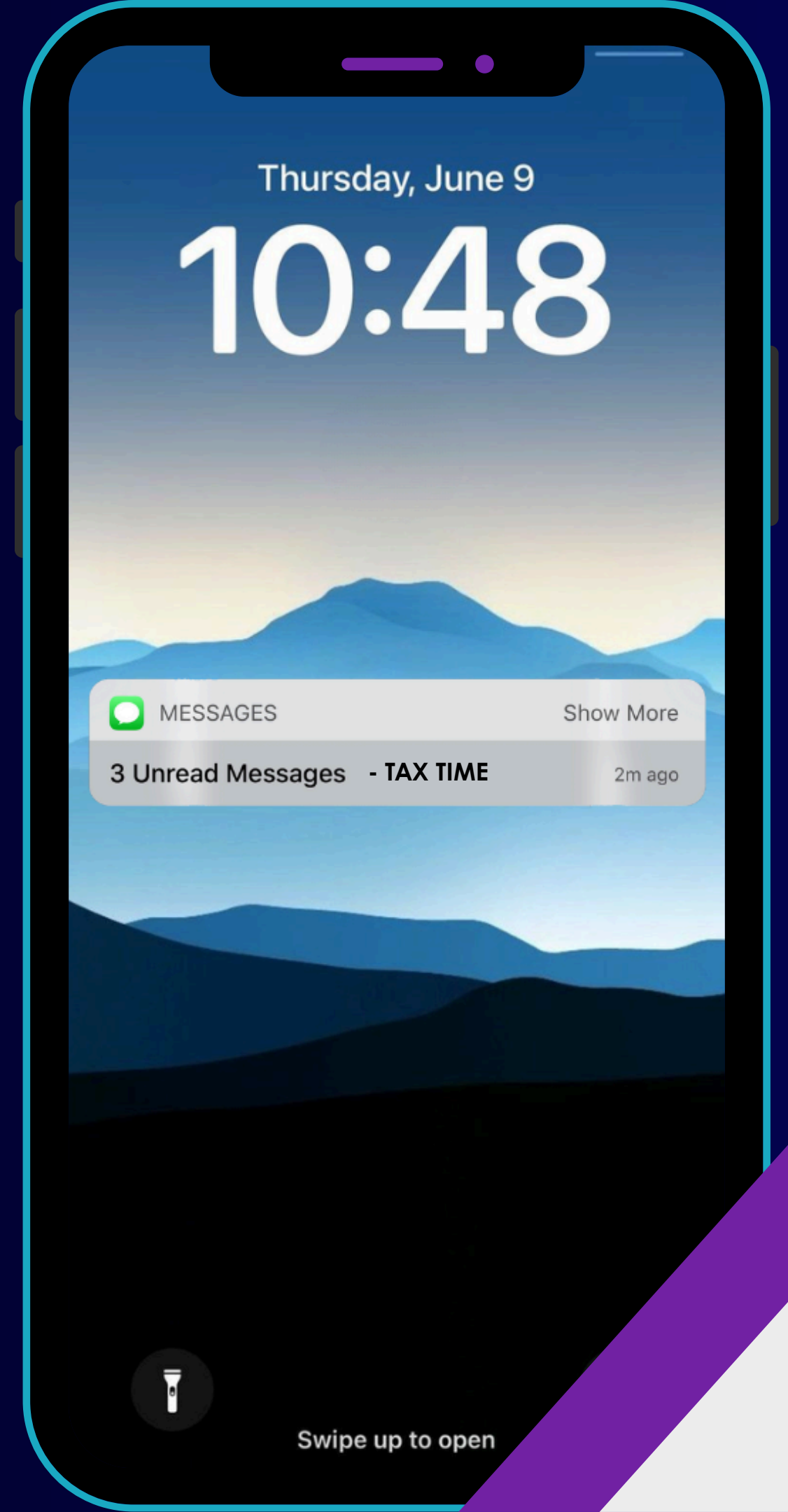
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They won't...

## TEXT YOU ASKING FOR PERSONAL INFORMATION

If you get an SMS from the “ATO” asking for your Tax File Number, bank details, or login codes — it's a scam. The ATO does not send links or request these personal details via text.

1





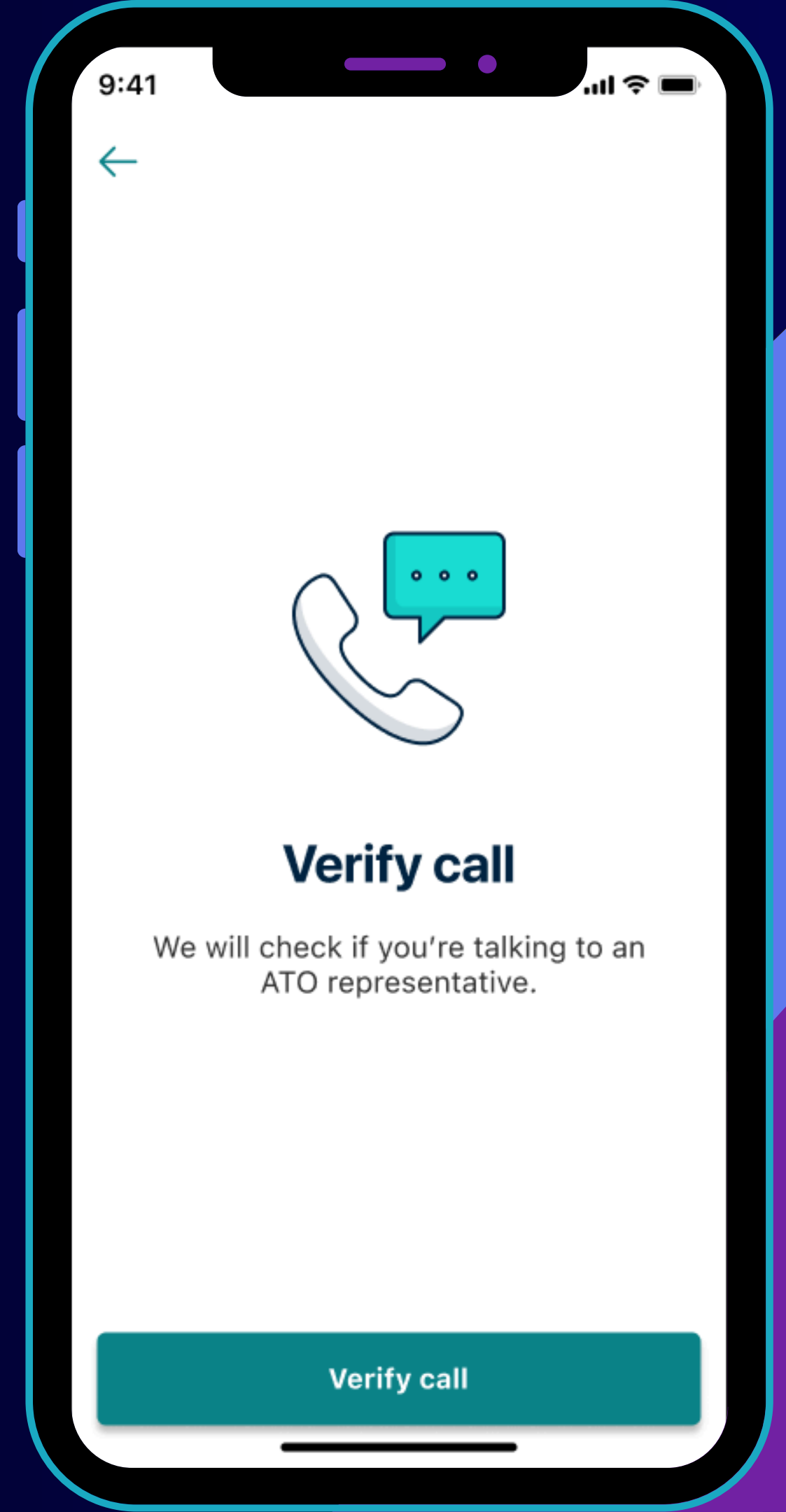
They won't...

## EXPECT YOU TO TRUST A CALL WITHOUT VERIFYING IT

Scam calls are getting more convincing. That's why the ATO now lets you verify calls in real time through its official app. If a call can't be verified, pause, verify it in the app, and never share personal or financial details if you're unsure.

[Learn more](#) about how the ATO verifies calls in its app.

2





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## THREATEN YOU OVER THE PHONE

The ATO will never demand immediate payment or threaten arrest via phone call. If someone does - hang up and report it. It's a criminal.

3





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## **ASK FOR PAYMENT VIA GIFT CARDS OR CRYPTO**

No government agency, including the ATO, will ask for tax debts to be paid in gift cards or crypto.

**4**



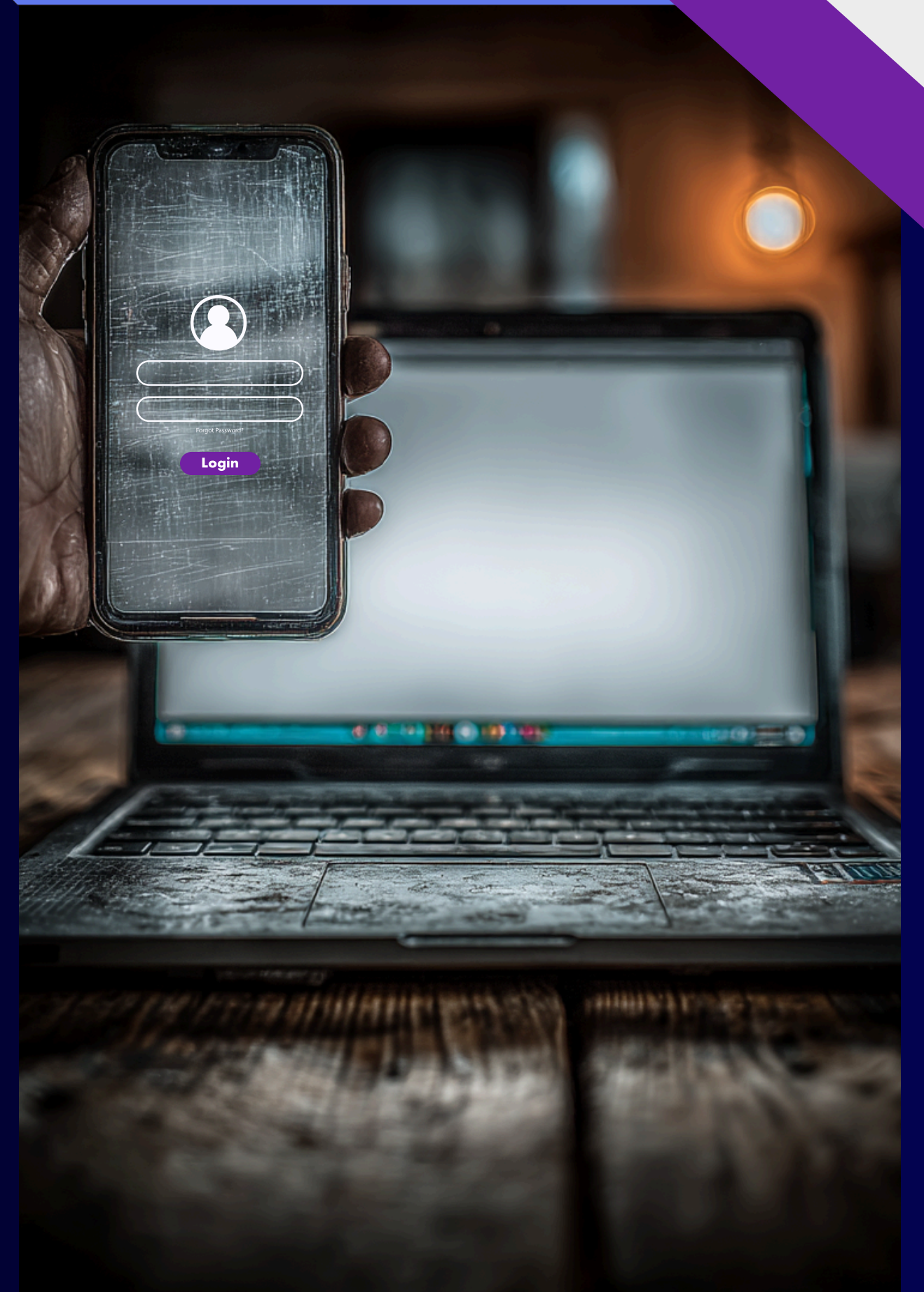


They won't...

## EMAIL FROM A LOOKALIKE DOMAIN

Legitimate ATO emails are delivered to your myGov Inbox. You may get a notification, but it won't include login links. Check the sender domain is gov.au, keep your details up to date, and use MFA or passkeys to protect your account.

5





They won't...

# RUSH YOU TO ACT IMMEDIATELY

Scammers create urgency to make you panic. The ATO communicates through official channels including myGov Inbox or ATO online services, giving you time to review, verify, and respond.

6

\*Example of a Tax Return Phishing Email

## TAX RETURN - ERROR DETECED

From: Taxation Office <ATO@hzeak.in>



Click on the attachment to view the error flagged on your Tax Return Report.

Please access the link to amend your details  
[www.taxreturn.hzeak.in](http://www.taxreturn.hzeak.in)

You have **24 hours to submit!**

Regards,

**Tax Senior Administrator**

