

eReturns Guide for Referendum Entities

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Disclosure and Compliance
Australian Electoral Commission
Locked Bag 4007
Canberra ACT 2601

Email: fad@aec.gov.au
Phone: 02 6271 4552

www.aec.gov.au




Published 15 December 2023

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Common icons and useful information

Common icons

Icon	What it does
	This is the help icon. If you click on this icon, further information will be displayed.
	This is the close icon. Clicking on this icon will close the help text that is displayed.
	This is the annotation icon. Where this icon appears, you can record further information. Any information you record in an annotation will be presented on the final return as a footnote.

Useful information

Saving

eReturns automatically saves while you are working. You do not need to remember to click save while working in eReturns.

Required information and fields

All required fields are marked with an asterisk (*).

Creating an eReturns account

Accessing eReturns

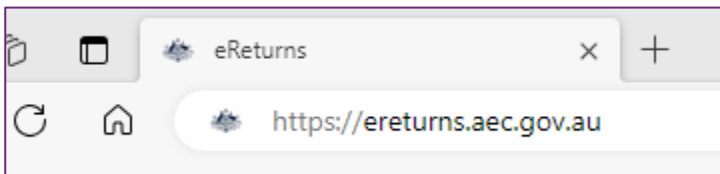
All referendum entities will need to create an eReturns account to lodge a referendum return.



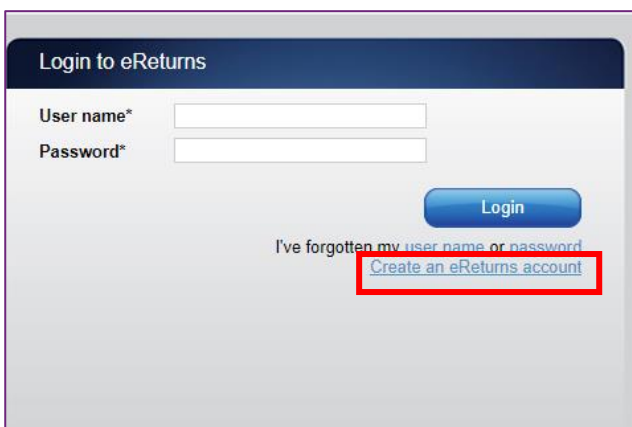
A [financial disclosure entity](#) will *not* be able to use their existing eReturns account - a new eReturns account must be created for referendum returns.

Getting started

eReturns can be accessed at <https://ereturns.aec.gov.au/>.



The eReturns webpage displays the following login screen. Click 'Create an eReturns account'. This will take you through a wizard to create your account.



Create an eReturns account

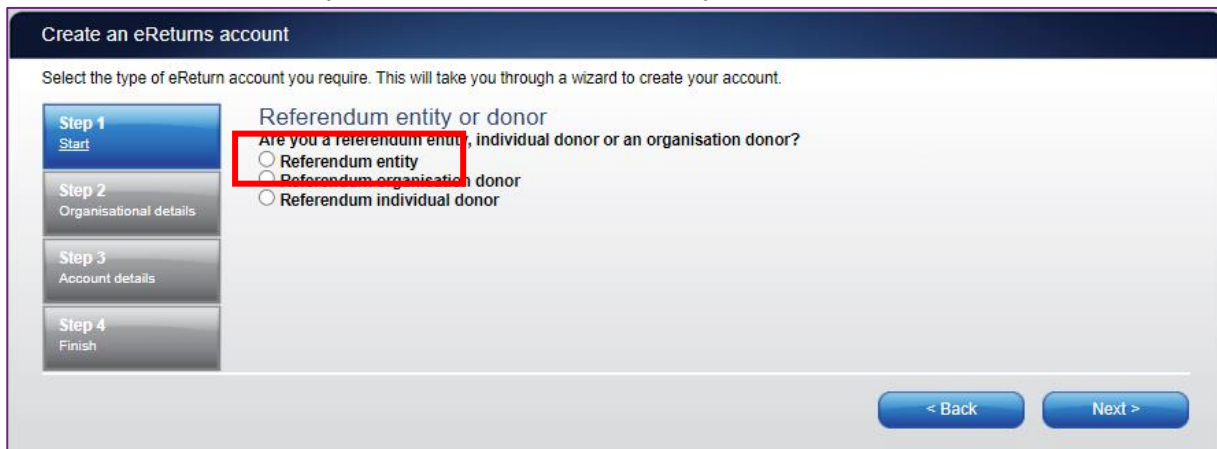
The first screen requires you to select the type of return you need to complete. Select 'Referendum entity or donor'. The next screen you will be able to select 'Referendum entity'.

Step 1: Start



To navigate through the eReturns wizard use the 'Back' and 'Next' buttons at the bottom right of the screen.

Select 'Referendum entity' from the eReturn account types:



Use the 'Next' button to provide information on the referendum entity and update the lodging officer details.

Step 2: Organisation details

On this screen you can provide relevant information regarding the referendum entity.

Please ensure your email address is correct as eReturns uses email for validation and to send you copies of any returns which you lodge.

Once you have completed all required fields, click 'Next' to move to the 'Your details' screen.

Create an eReturns account

Select the type of eReturn account you require. This will take you through a wizard to create your account.

Step 1
Start

Step 2
Organisational details

Step 3
Account details

Step 4
Finish

Organisation details

Organisation Name*

ABN

ACN

☐ International address

Address

Suburb*

State*

Postcode*

< Back

Next >

Step 3: Account details

On this screen you need to provide details for the contact person responsible for the referendum entity, or lodging officer. Some details, such as the address will be pre-filled based on the previous screen.

Please ensure your email address is correct as eReturns uses email for validation and to send you copies of any returns which you lodge.

Create an eReturns account

Select the type of eReturn account you require. This will take you through a wizard to create your account.

Step 1
Start

Step 2
Organisational details

Step 3
Account details

Step 4
Finish

Your details

Salutation

First name*

Surname*

Capacity* ?

Postal Address

☐ International address

Address

88 Eight Street *

Suburb*

EIGHT MILE CREEK

State*

QLD

Postcode*

4807

Email*

Confirm Email

Phone*

Fax

Mobile

< Back

Next >

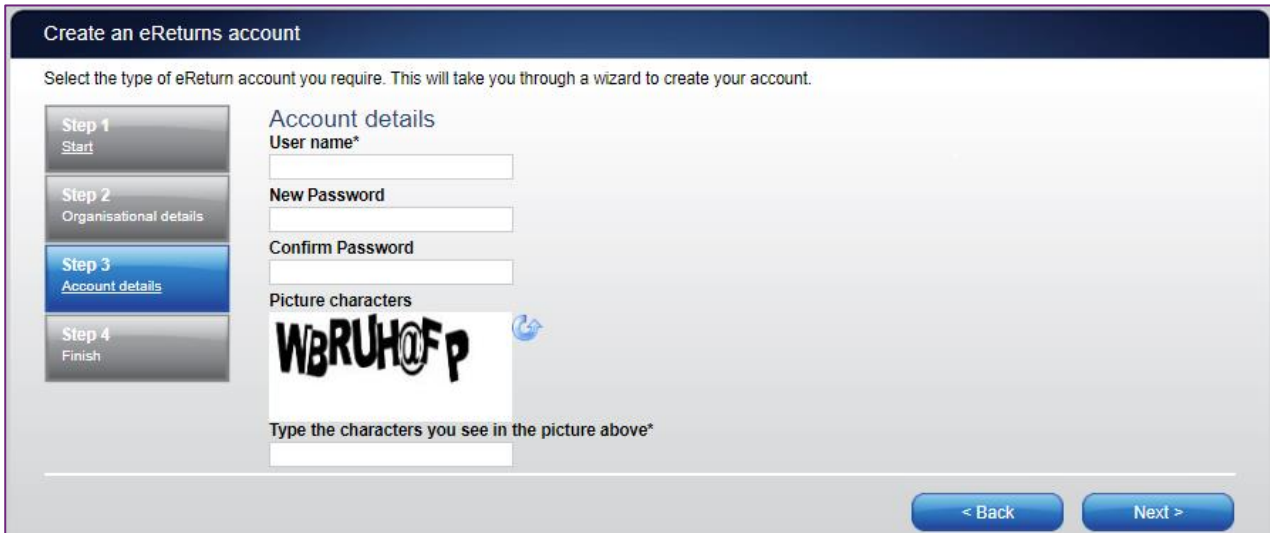
Please note: The address provided here will be made publicly available once the submitted return is published on the Transparency Register.

After you have completed the 'Your details' screen, click 'Next'.

Step 3: Account Details

On this screen you will need to set a user name and password.

If you have received your eReturns credentials via an obligation letter please go to page 11 for information on how to setup your account.



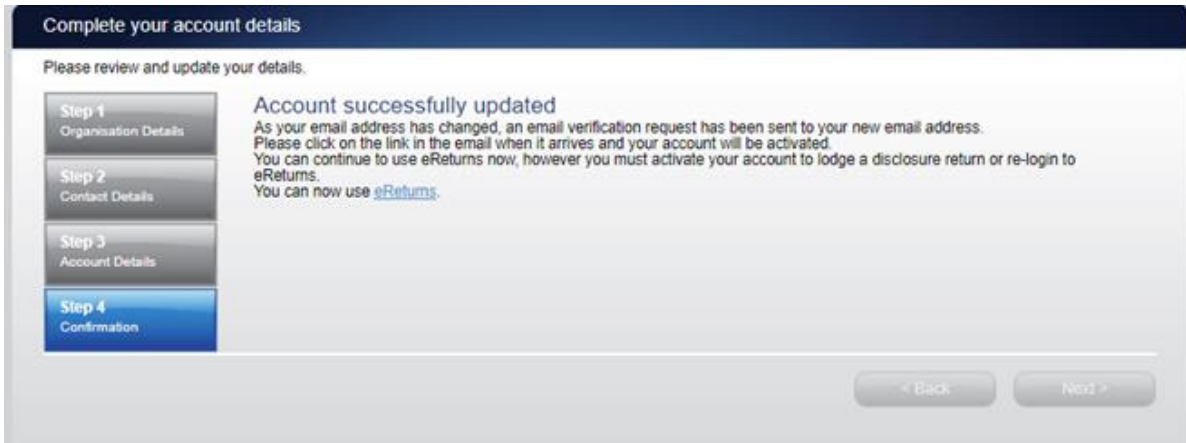
For the security of your eReturn account, please follow these instructions to create a password:

Length: Your password must be a minimum of 8 characters

Composition: Use a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and avoid special symbols

Note your new password, as you will need this to lodge a return. Once you have completed the Account details screen, click 'Next'.

Step 4: Confirmation



Please note: the 'Confirmation' step above, details that your 'email address has changed', this is simply directing you to the verification email to 'Activate' your account.

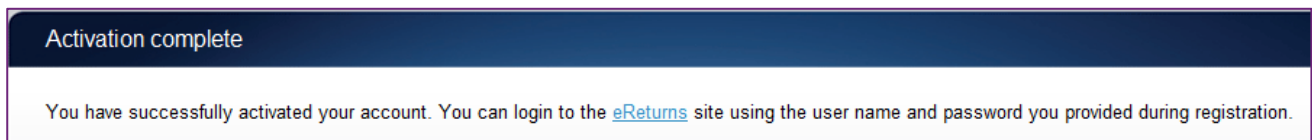
Email activation and verification

eReturns will automatically generate an activation email and send it to your email address so you can verify the email associated with the account.

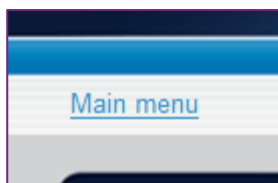
Your eReturns account **needs to be activated** by using the link emailed to you. The below is an example of the email content.

The email account linked to your eReturns account has changed. Please activate your eReturns account by clicking this link <https://ereturnstest.dev.aec.local/RegistrationWizard/ActivateAccount?activationCode=EE8C054585CD0B3C0762107FFD128271>. Alternatively copy the link into your browsers address bar.

Clicking this link verifies that you have access to the email account.



Once you have verified your email address you are able to start using your eReturns account, please click the 'Main menu' button to return to the eReturns main menu.



Using AEC issued credentials to access eReturns

Note: An existing eReturns account **cannot be used for referendum returns** - the new eReturns account provided must be used.

The AEC may issue you with eReturns credentials. eReturns credentials will look like this:

User name:	AdminReferendumEntity
Password:	P2U22A2P

eReturns credentials are made up of a user name and one-time password. On the first log-in to eReturns you will need to confirm and update details.

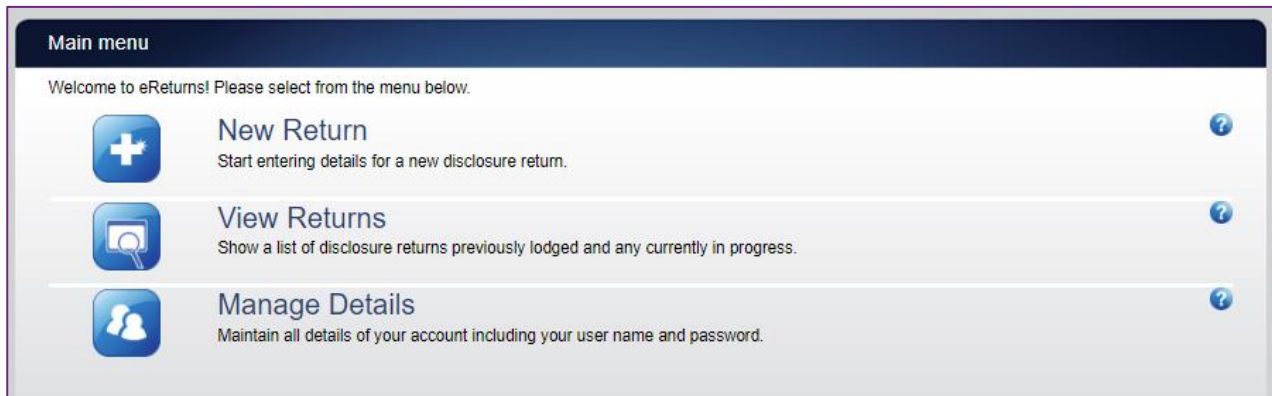
Follow Steps 1 through 4 to update your account and verify your email address.

Once your account is verified, you will be able to commence a new return.

Using eReturns

Main menu

Once you have logged in you will see the eReturns main menu.



From the main menu you can start a **new return**. The next sections in the guide explain a new return for referendum entities.

If you have commenced a return you will also have the option to **continue** a return.

From the main menu you can also **view** historical returns and **manage** your account details. The 'View Returns' option will only appear once you have commenced or submitted a return.

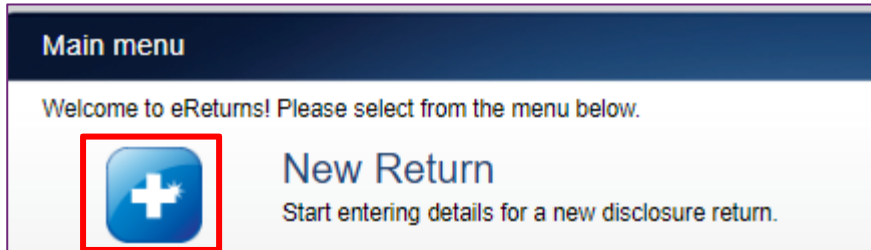
NOTE: Your account details are the details that you reviewed and updated when you logged in for the first time.

Completing a return

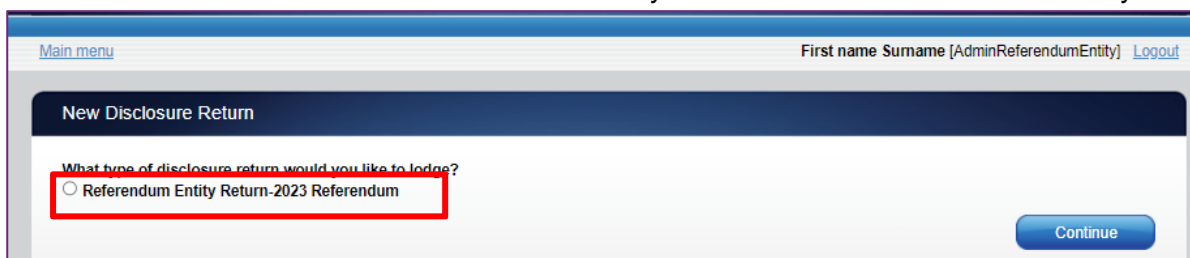
To complete a Referendum Entity return for the 2023 Referendum use the 'New Return' button on the main menu.

New return

Click the 'New Return' button to start completing a new return.



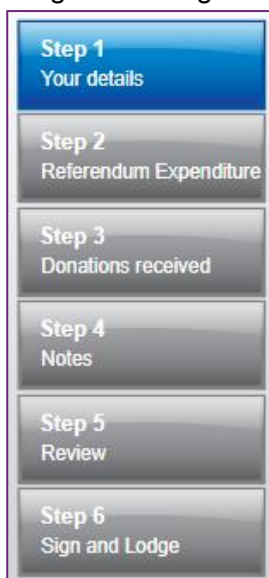
You will then need to choose the referendum entity return for the relevant referendum year:



Click 'Continue' to launch the return wizard. You can use the 'Back' and 'Next' buttons to navigate through the screens.

Instructions on how to complete the wizard will appear at the top of each screen.

Progress through the wizard is tracked down the left-hand side.



As you navigate through the wizard, you will be prompted to enter the information which will make up the return.

Step 1 – Your details

On this screen you can update the Referendum Entity details.

NOTE: These details have been automatically pre-filled from the information you provided in your account registration.



Main menu First name Surname [AdminReferendumEntity] Logout

Referendum Entity Return (2023 Referendum)

These screens will let you complete or amend a disclosure return. You can logout of eReturns at any time and the information you've already entered will be saved and available to you to continue and lodge the next time you log in.

Step 1
Your details

Referendum Entity Details

Referendum Entity Name*

Referendum Entity

ABN

ACN

☐ International address

Address

1 Address Street

Suburb*

MON REPOS

State*

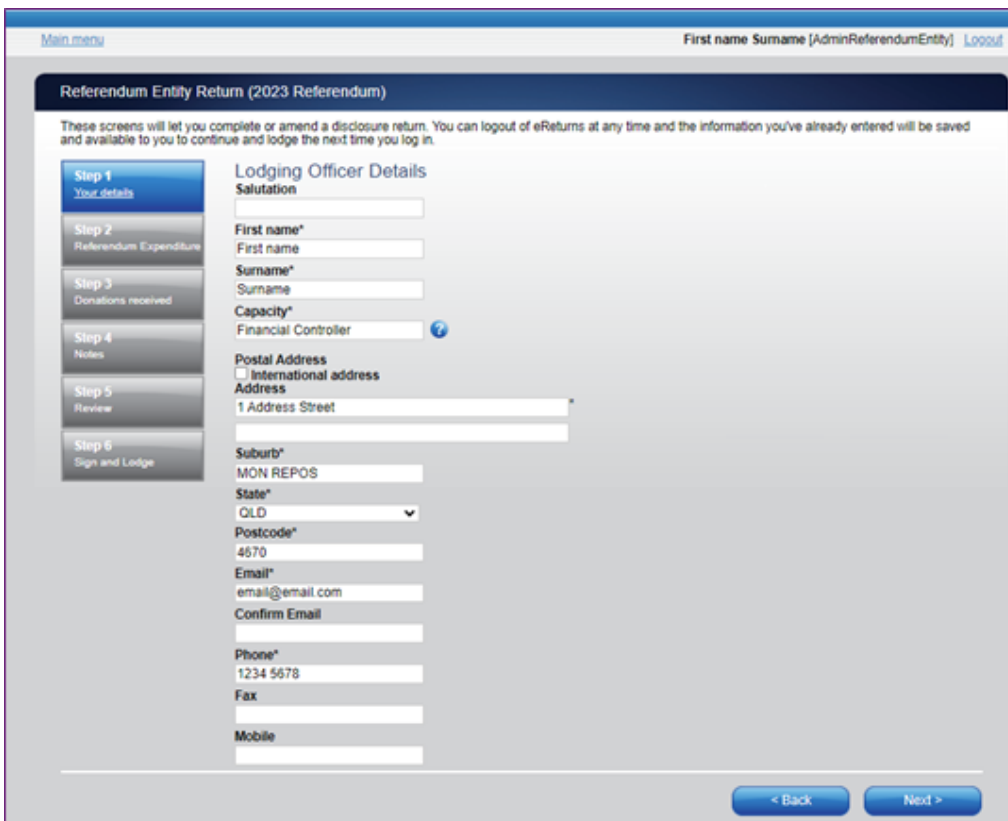
QLD

Postcode*

4670

< Back Next >

Once you have reviewed or updated the entity's details click 'Next' to move to the Lodging Officer details screen.



Main menu First name Surname [AdminReferendumEntity] Logout

Referendum Entity Return (2023 Referendum)

These screens will let you complete or amend a disclosure return. You can logout of eReturns at any time and the information you've already entered will be saved and available to you to continue and lodge the next time you log in.

Step 1
Your details

Lodging Officer Details

Salutation

First name*

First name

Surname*

Surname

Capacity*

Financial Controller

☐ Postal Address

Address

1 Address Street

Suburb*

MON REPOS

State*

QLD

Postcode*

4670

Email*

email@email.com

Confirm Email

Phone*

1234 5678

Fax

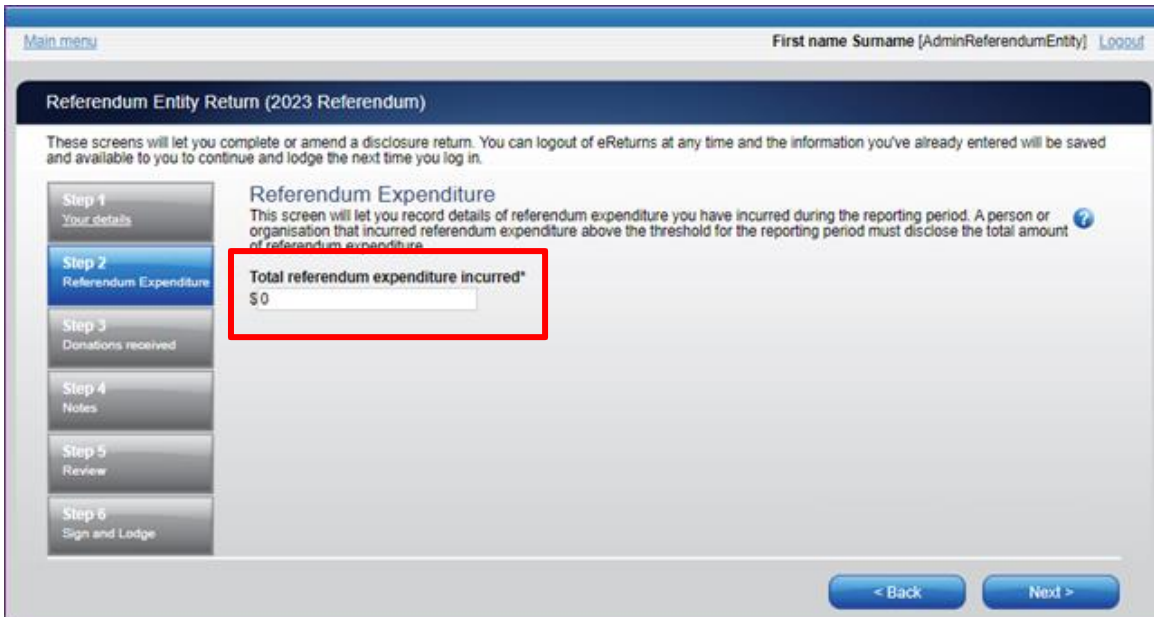
Mobile

< Back Next >

On this screen you can review and update your details. Once you have reviewed your details, click 'Next' to move to the Donations you have made screen.

Step 2 – Referendum expenditure

This screen requires you to provide a whole dollar amount for referendum expenditure incurred:



Main menu First name Surname [AdminReferendumEntity] Logout

Referendum Entity Return (2023 Referendum)

These screens will let you complete or amend a disclosure return. You can logout of eReturns at any time and the information you've already entered will be saved and available to you to continue and lodge the next time you log in.

- Step 1 Your details
- Step 2 Referendum Expenditure**
- Step 3 Donations received
- Step 4 Notes
- Step 5 Review
- Step 6 Sign and Lodge

Referendum Expenditure

This screen will let you record details of referendum expenditure you have incurred during the reporting period. A person or organisation that incurred referendum expenditure above the threshold for the reporting period must disclose the total amount of referendum expenditure.

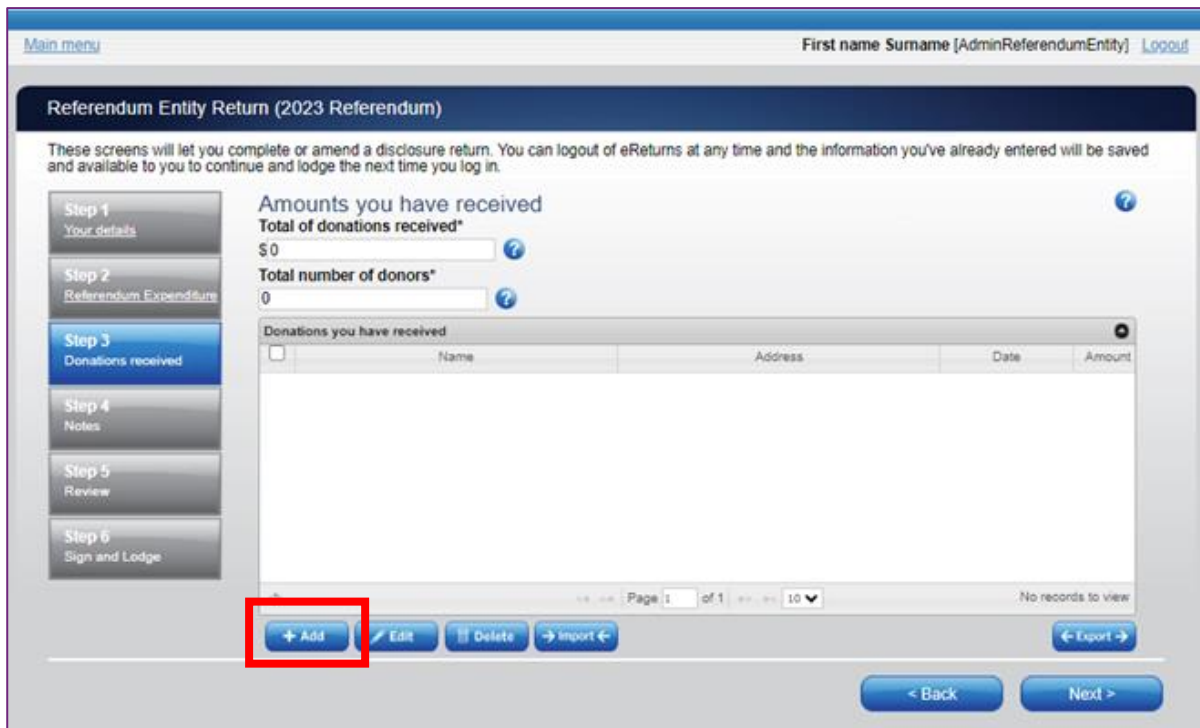
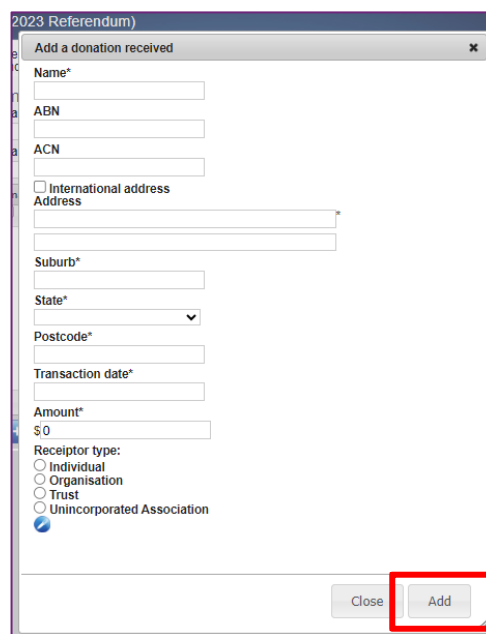
Total referendum expenditure incurred*
\$0

< Back Next >

Click Next to progress Donations received.

Step 3 – Donations received

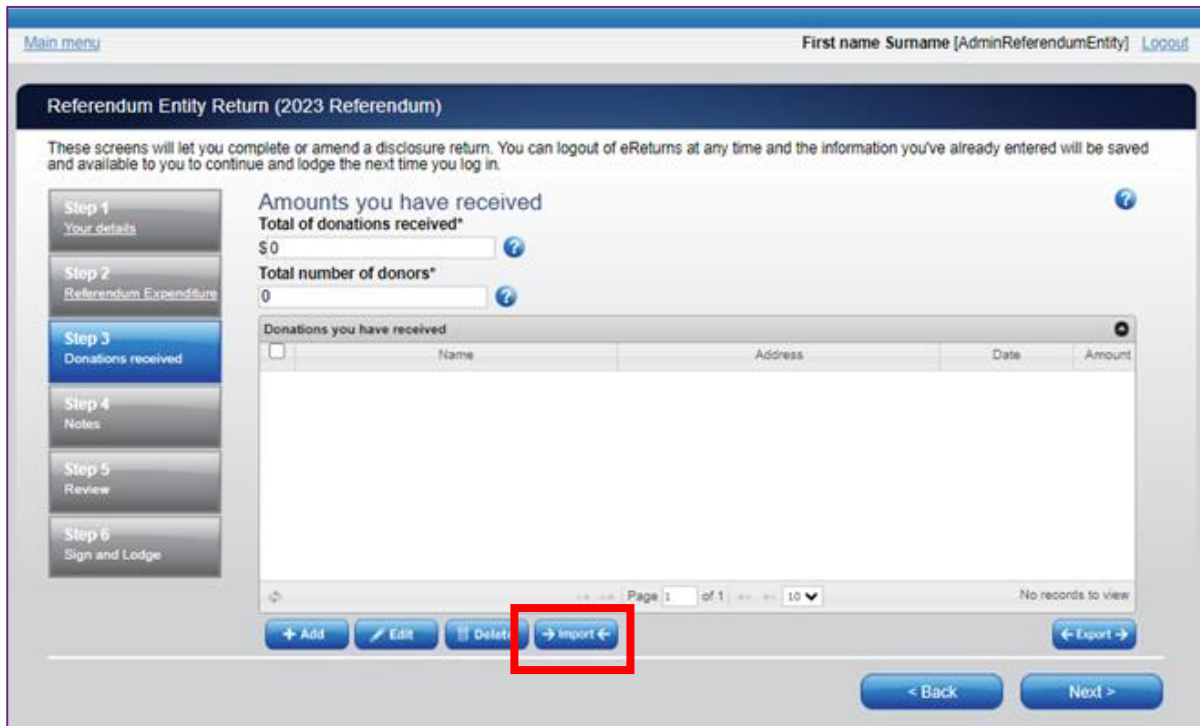
Total donations and number of donors can be recorded directly into this screen. To add donation details click the 'Add' button at the bottom of the table on the screen. That will launch the 'Add a donation received' window.

In the 'Add a donation received' window you can fill in the details of each detailed donation. All required fields must be completed. Once all the information has been entered click the 'Add' button to add the receipt to the list. The 'Add a donation received' window will remain open to allow you to enter more receipts. Once you have finished entering receipts click the 'Close' button to return to the receipts screen.

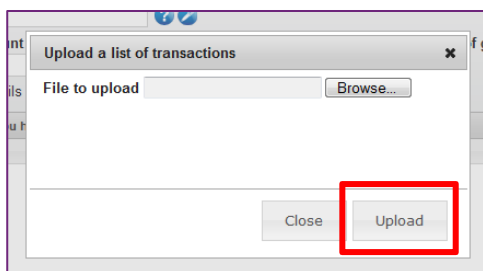
Import donations

The import function allows you to upload a spread sheet of transactions into eReturns, eliminating the need to manually enter each transaction. In order to import receipts you will need a spread sheet (either in MicroSoft Excel, CSV or XML format) of receipts which contains all of the required information for each receipt. To start importing receipts click the 'Import' button.



The screenshot shows the 'Referendum Entity Return (2023 Referendum)' interface. On the left, there is a sidebar with steps: Step 1 (Your details), Step 2 (Referendum Expenditure), Step 3 (Donations received), Step 4 (Notes), Step 5 (Review), and Step 6 (Sign and Lodge). Step 3 is currently selected. The main area displays 'Amounts you have received' with input fields for 'Total of donations received*' (showing \$0) and 'Total number of donors*' (showing 0). Below this is a table titled 'Donations you have received' with columns for Name, Address, Date, and Amount. At the bottom of the table, there are buttons for '+ Add', 'Edit', 'Delete', 'Import' (highlighted with a red box), and 'Export'. There are also 'Back' and 'Next' buttons at the very bottom.

This will launch the import screen.



The screenshot shows a dialog box titled 'Upload a list of transactions'. It has a 'File to upload' field with a 'Browse...' button next to it. At the bottom of the dialog, there are 'Close' and 'Upload' buttons. The 'Upload' button is highlighted with a red box.

From here you can use the browse button to select the spread sheet you wish to upload from your computer. Once you have selected the spread sheet, click 'Upload'.

Once eReturns has uploaded your spread sheet it will ask you to match the columns in your spread sheet to the columns in eReturns. For example:

Assign data columns

Select the columns you want to use.

	Name	Address Line 1	Address Line 2	Address Line 3	Suburb
Skip	Name	Address Line 1	Address Line 2	Address Line 3	Suburb
Skip	Company A	3/182 Test Lane			Kingston
Skip	Company B	45 Test Street			Sydney
Skip	Company C	Number 4, Test Road			Wamboin
Skip	Company D	Unit 22, 89 Test Cct			Homebush
Skip	Company E	Testland	453 Test Track		Mudgee

Now eReturns will ask you to designate some of the values in some of the columns. You will need to assign values that eReturns recognises to some of the data in your spread sheet. Once you have assigned all the columns, click 'Import Data'.

Once you have matched the values from your spread sheet to values that eReturns will recognise you can click 'Assign'. eReturns will tell you how many records were successfully imported, and list those which were not successful. You can also export the list of transactions which were not successfully imported from here. To close this window, click 'Close'.

Import results

The import is now complete.

4 of 6 record(s) uploaded successfully.

The list below shows any transactions that could not be uploaded. You can export this list for review, and use the add functionality to manually add the transaction.

Errors	Name	PostalAddress_AddressLine1	PostalAddress_AddressLine2
<p>Could not convert 'Date' to a Date</p> <p>Could not convert 'Amount' to a number</p> <p>Postcode must be 4 digits</p> <p>State is required.</p> <p>The amount must be whole dollar amount greater than zero. Do not include any cents symbols or separators.</p> <p>The transaction made on 28/02/2010 does not fall within the relevant reporting period 1/07/2010-30/06/2011.</p>	Company E	Testland	453 Test Track

[← Export →](#)

If you choose to export the list of transactions which were not successfully imported you can fix the problems in the data which eReturns has identified and re-import that list. Alternatively, you can use the '+ Add' button to add those transactions manually.

eReturns will now upload the transactions from the spread sheet into the return wizard. Once it is complete you will be able to see the transactions in the list on the screen.

[Main menu](#) First name Surname [AdminReferendumEntity] [Logout](#)

Referendum Entity Return (2023 Referendum)

These screens will let you complete or amend a disclosure return. You can logout of eReturns at any time and the information you've already entered will be saved and available to you to continue and lodge the next time you log in.

Step 1
[Your details](#)

Step 2
[Referendum Expenditure](#)

Step 3
Donations received

Step 4
[Notes](#)

Step 5
[Review](#)

Step 6
[Sign and Lodge](#)

Amounts you have received

Total of donations received*
\$40000 ?

Total number of donors*
5 ?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Address	Date	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referendum donor 2	13 Test Place CONARA TAS 7211	05/05/2023	15100
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referendum donor 1	Test Street WELLINGTON SA 5259	01/08/2023	20000

Page 1 of 1 10 View 1 - 2 of 2

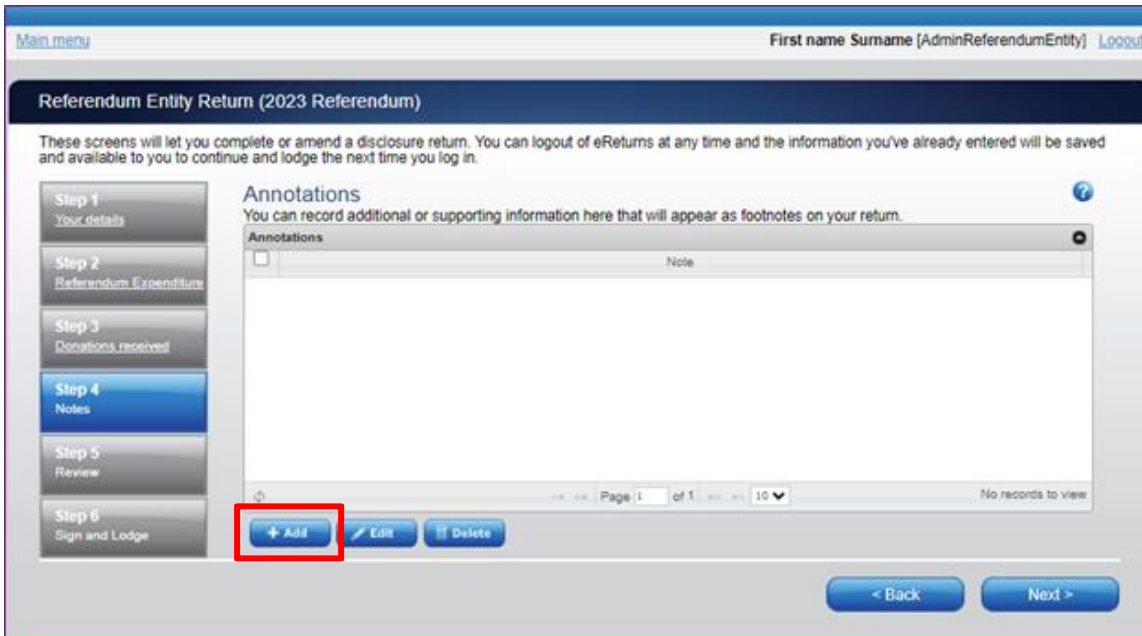
[+ Add](#) [Edit](#) [Delete](#) [Import](#) [Export](#)

[< Back](#) [Next >](#)

Once you have recorded all donations above the threshold, click 'Next' to move to the Notes screen.

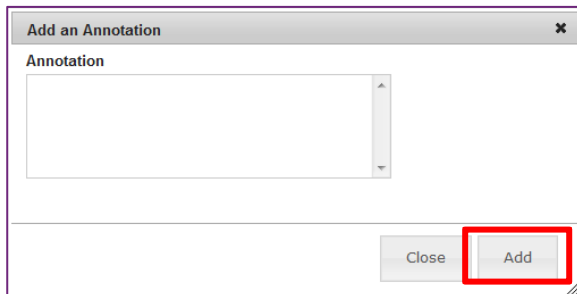
Step 4 – Notes

The Notes screen allows you to record annotations against the return. Please note that the annotation will be made publicly available once the submitted return is published on the Transparency Register.



The annotations will be presented on the return as footnotes.

To add an annotation, click the 'Add' button. This will launch the 'Add an Annotation' window.

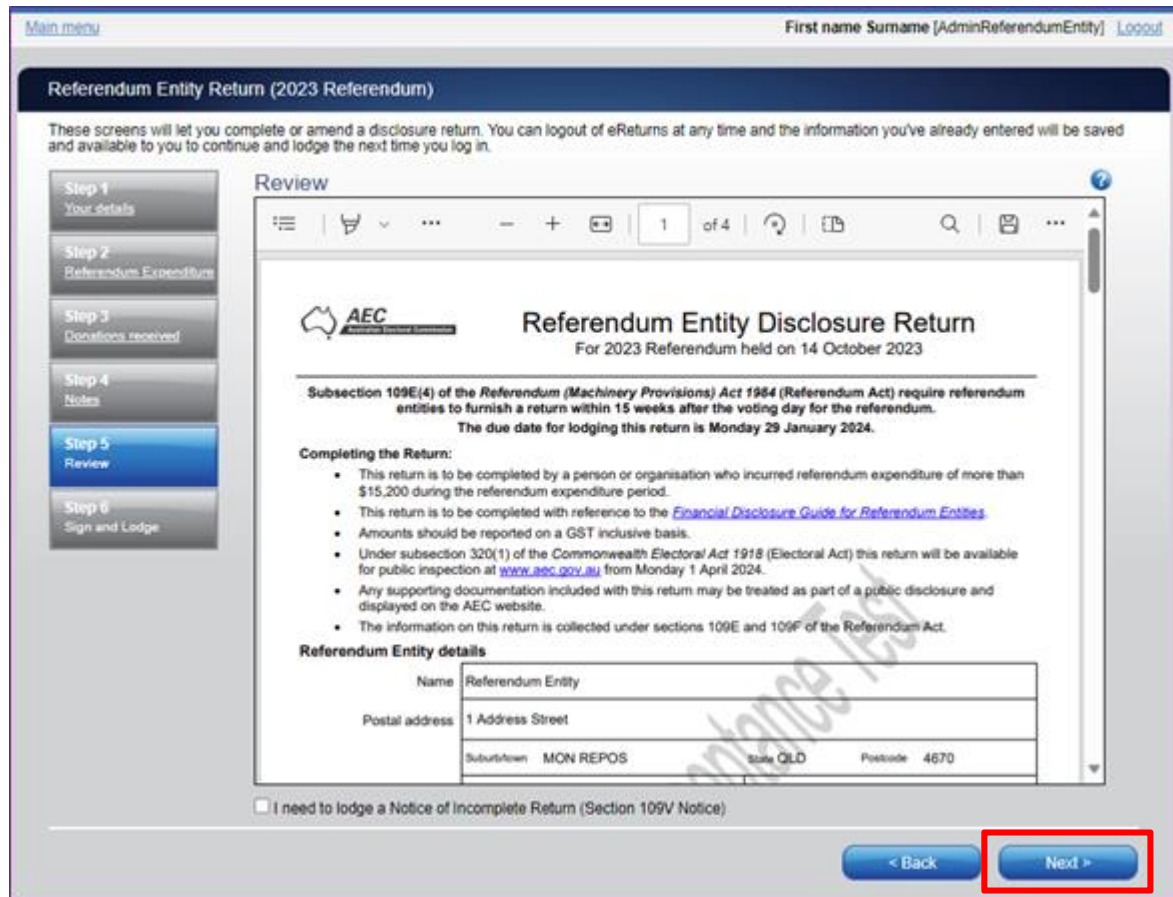


Enter the text of your annotation and click 'Add' to save it. Click 'Close' once you have entered all your annotations. When you have finished recording annotations, click 'Next'.

Step 5 – Review

From this screen, you may view the draft return.

Here you will be presented with a PDF preview of what the data in your return will look like. Use the scroll bar on the right of the screen to view all of the pages of the return.



Referendum Entity Return (2023 Referendum)

These screens will let you complete or amend a disclosure return. You can logout of eReturns at any time and the information you've already entered will be saved and available to you to continue and lodge the next time you log in.

Step 1 Your details
Step 2 Referendum Expenditure
Step 3 Donations received
Step 4 Notes
Step 5 Review
Step 6 Sign and Lodge

Review

1 of 4

Referendum Entity Disclosure Return
 For 2023 Referendum held on 14 October 2023

Subsection 109E(4) of the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984* (Referendum Act) require referendum entities to furnish a return within 15 weeks after the voting day for the referendum.
 The due date for lodging this return is Monday 29 January 2024.

Completing the Return:

- This return is to be completed by a person or organisation who incurred referendum expenditure of more than \$15,200 during the referendum expenditure period.
- This return is to be completed with reference to the [Financial Disclosure Guide for Referendum Entities](#).
- Amounts should be reported on a GST inclusive basis.
- Under subsection 320(1) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act) this return will be available for public inspection at www.aec.gov.au from Monday 1 April 2024.
- Any supporting documentation included with this return may be treated as part of a public disclosure and displayed on the AEC website.
- The information on this return is collected under sections 109E and 109F of the Referendum Act.

Referendum Entity details

Name	Referendum Entity		
Postal address	1 Address Street		
	Suburb/town	State	Postcode
	MON REPOS	QLD	4670

☐ I need to lodge a Notice of Incomplete Return (Section 109V Notice)

< Back **Next >**

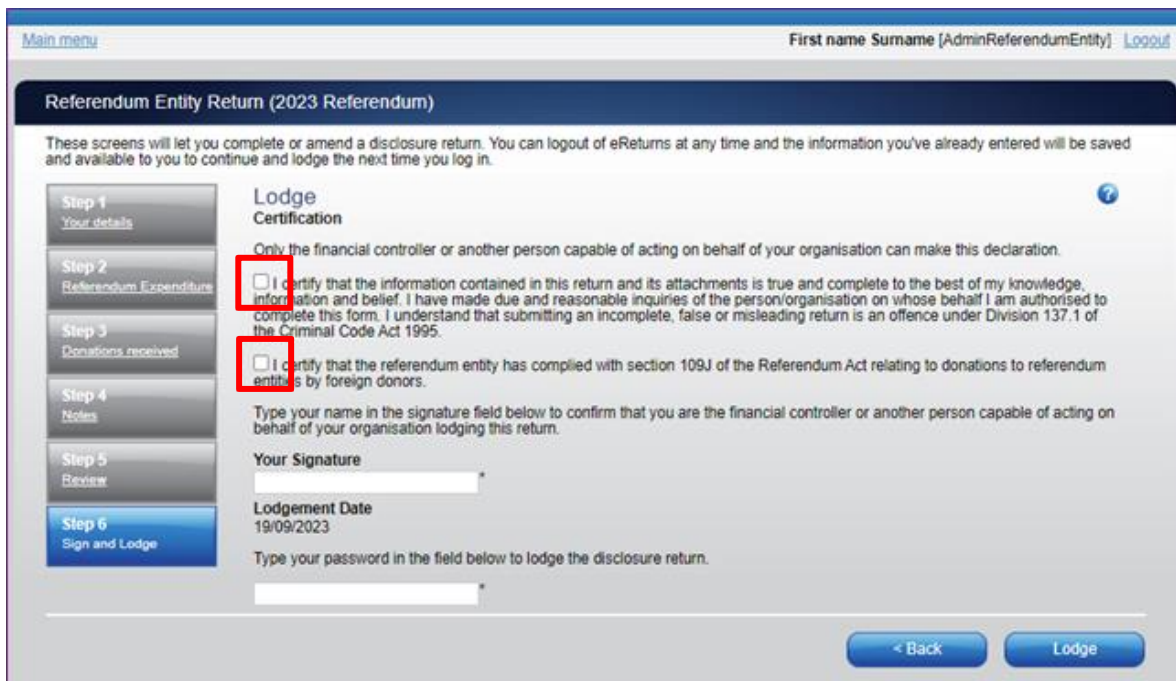
You'll notice that there is nothing in the signature or date fields on the front of the return. These fields will only be populated once you have completed the lodgement screen and will appear on the final version of your return.

If you need to make changes to the data in the return, click 'Back'. Once you have reviewed the image of your return and all data is correct, click 'Next'. This will take you to Step 6, the 'Sign and Lodge' screen.

NOTE: At the bottom of this screen, above the 'Back' and 'Next' buttons is a checkbox. Selecting this box will allow you to lodge a Notice of Incomplete Return. For more detail on this, go to the [Lodging a Notice of Incomplete Return](#) section of this guide.

Step 6 – Sign and Lodge

The final step to lodging the return is to certify that the information is correct and to electronically sign. If you are sure that the information contained within the returns is correct, click **both** check boxes. You will then need to type your name in the following box to act as an electronic signature.



Finally, type your password into the final box. This step is to verify that the candidate agent is lodging the return. Once you have completed these steps, click the 'Lodge' button and the return will be submitted.

Save copy of lodged return.' and another link '[Back to main menu](#)'. At the bottom right, there are '< Back' and 'Next >' buttons." data-bbox="92 557 819 827"/>

From this screen you may save a PDF copy of your return. The AEC recommends that you save a copy of your return in case you need to print or refer to it later. The unique reference number

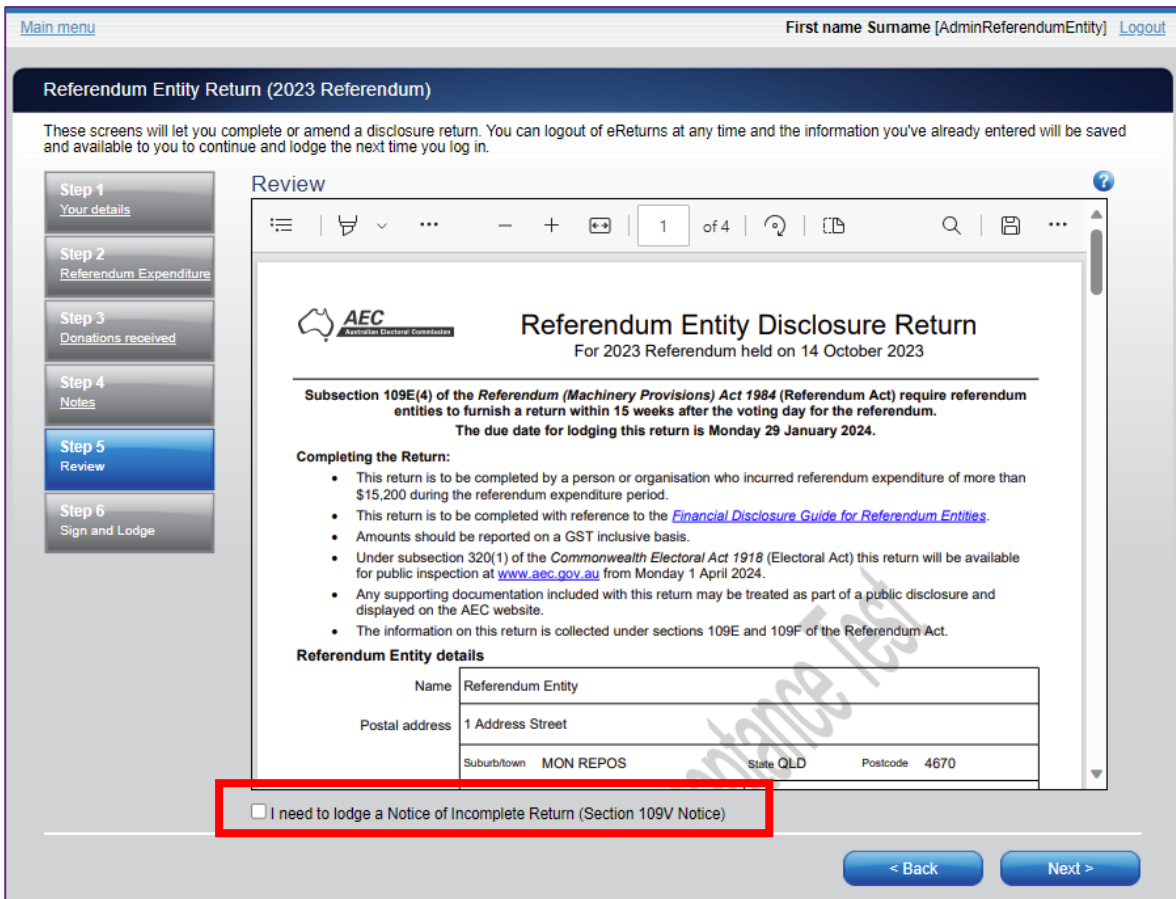
presented on this screen is also recorded on the return form in the bottom right hand corner. eReturns will also email you a copy of your lodged return by default.

Use the 'Main Menu' button in the top left corner to return to the Main Menu.

Lodging a Notice of Incomplete Return

eReturns will allow you to lodge a Notice of Incomplete Return online. For more information about when it is appropriate to lodge a Notice of Incomplete Return please consult the [Financial Disclosure guide for Referendum Entities](#) available on the AEC's website at www.aec.gov.au.

To lodge a Notice of Incomplete Return in eReturns you will need to select the checkbox at the bottom of the "Step 5 – Review" screen.



Referendum Entity Return (2023 Referendum)

These screens will let you complete or amend a disclosure return. You can logout of eReturns at any time and the information you've already entered will be saved and available to you to continue and lodge the next time you log in.

Review

1 of 4

Referendum Entity Disclosure Return
For 2023 Referendum held on 14 October 2023

Subsection 109E(4) of the Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984 (Referendum Act) require referendum entities to furnish a return within 15 weeks after the voting day for the referendum.
The due date for lodging this return is Monday 29 January 2024.

Completing the Return:

- This return is to be completed by a person or organisation who incurred referendum expenditure of more than \$15,200 during the referendum expenditure period.
- This return is to be completed with reference to the [Financial Disclosure Guide for Referendum Entities](#).
- Amounts should be reported on a GST inclusive basis.
- Under subsection 320(1) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act) this return will be available for public inspection at www.aec.gov.au from Monday 1 April 2024.
- Any supporting documentation included with this return may be treated as part of a public disclosure and displayed on the AEC website.
- The information on this return is collected under sections 109E and 109F of the Referendum Act.

Referendum Entity details

Name	Referendum Entity		
Postal address	1 Address Street		
	Suburb/town	State	Postcode
	MON REPOS	QLD	4670

☐ I need to lodge a Notice of Incomplete Return (Section 109V Notice)

< Back Next >

Selecting this box will take you to the Notice of Incomplete Return screen.

[Main menu](#) First name Surname [AdminReferendumEntity] [Logout](#)

Referendum Entity Return (2020 Referendum)

These screens will let you complete or amend a disclosure return. You can logout of eReturns at any time and the information you've already entered will be saved and available to you to continue and lodge the next time you log in.

Step 1
Your details

Step 2
Referendum Expenditure

Step 3
Donations received

Step 4
Notes

Step 5
Review

Step 6
Sign and Lodge

Incomplete Return

Part 1: Incomplete Particulars
Please provide details of the information you believe is missing from the disclosure return.

Part 2a: Reason for incomplete particulars
Provide the reason/s you were unable to obtain the particulars listed in Part 1 above. For example, that you were unable to obtain records from particular branches or persons.

Part 2b: Attempts made to obtain this information
Detail all attempts made to obtain the information detailed in Part 1.

Part 3: Person/s who may be able to provide the missing particulars
List the name and address of any person/s who you believe can provide the missing particulars and the reason that you believe they have those particulars.

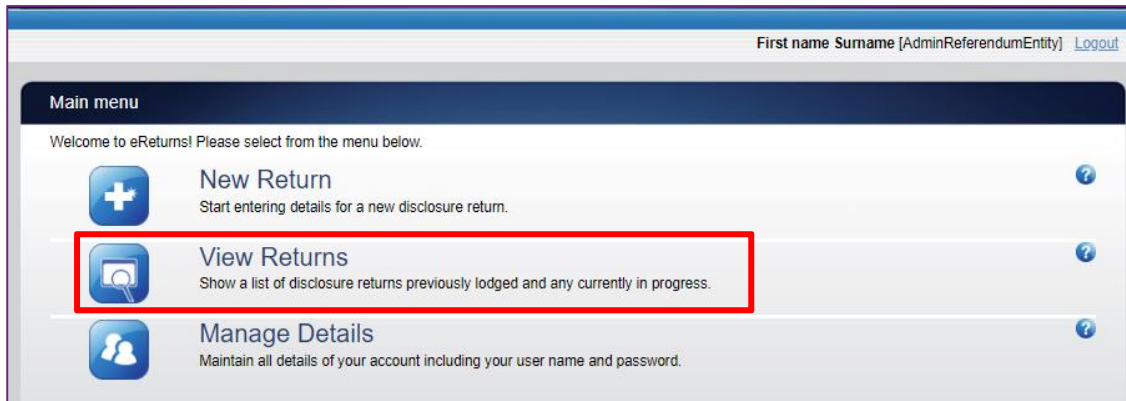
[< Back](#) [Next >](#)

You are required to fill in all fields, detailing the information that is missing from your return, the reason why you were unable to obtain that information, who you believe may have the information which is missing, and why you believe that person has it. Once you have completed all the fields on the screen, click 'Next' to review the Notice of Incomplete Return.

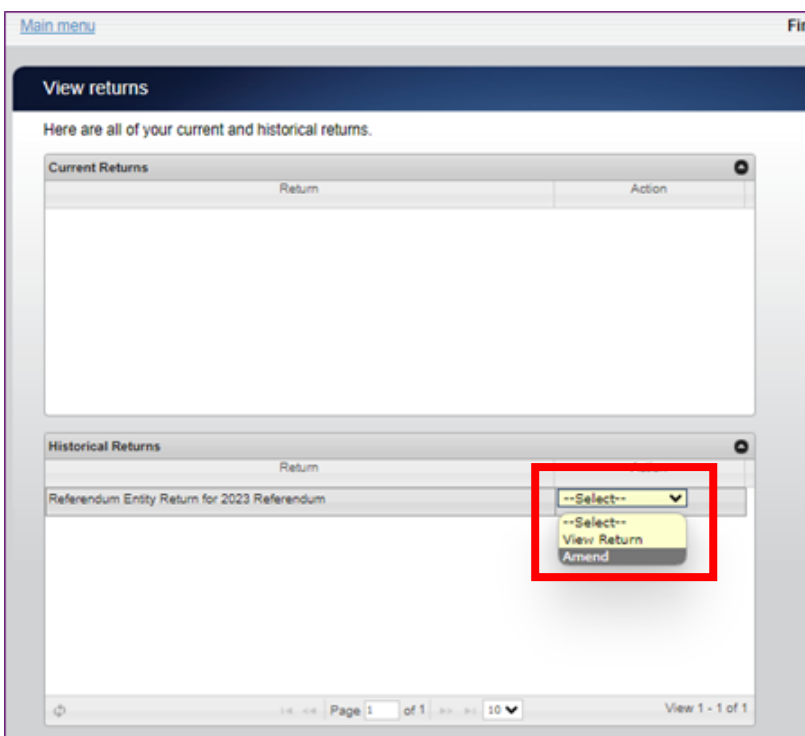
Once you have reviewed your Notice of Incomplete Return click 'Next' to go to the Sign and Lodge screen. To lodge your return and Notice of Incomplete Return follow the instructions at Step 7 – Sign and Lodge of this guide.

Amending a Return

If you need to amend your return, log into eReturns and Click on “View” returns.



A return can only be amended once it has been processed by the AEC. If you cannot see the option to ‘Amend’, please contact Disclosure & Compliance on 02 6271 4552 or by email at fad@aec.gov.au.



This will launch the amendment wizard. The amendment wizard is the same as the return wizard, except it contains the data from the original return. To amend a return, simply add, edit, or delete as appropriate. Once you have finished working your way through the wizard, eReturns will generate an amendment form for you to review. This amendment form can be lodged in the same way as the original return.

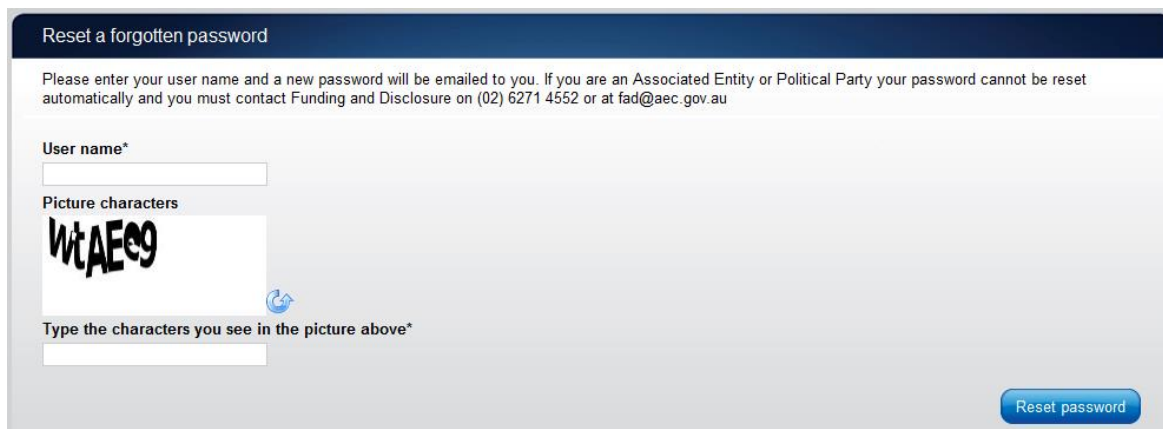
Troubleshooting

Forgotten Password

If you have forgotten your password, you can reset it online. This can be done using the forgotten password link on the eReturns front page. eReturns will send you an email with a new single use password in it.



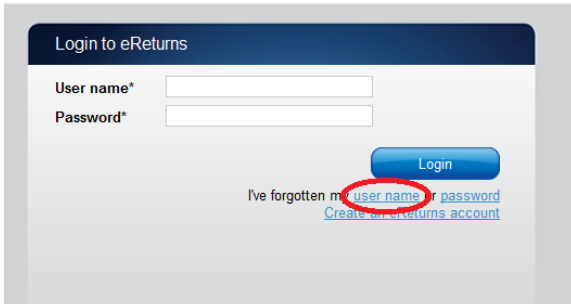
Clicking forgotten password will take you to the password reset screen where you will need to enter your user name the 'Picture characters' text on screen.



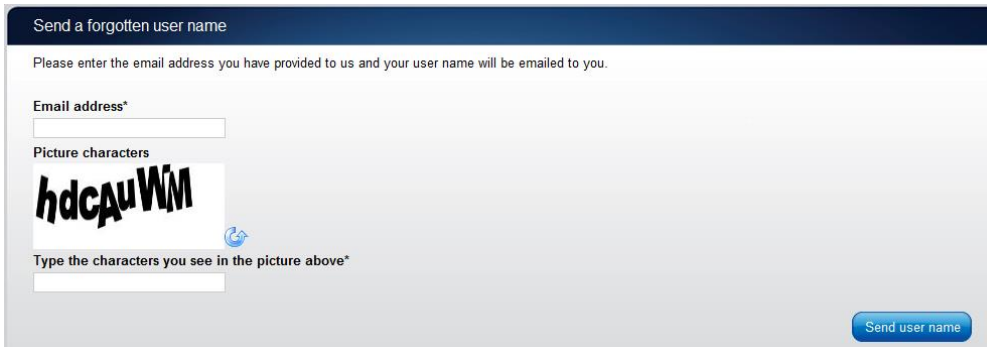
Alternatively, you can contact the Disclosure team on 02 6271 4552 or email at fad@aec.gov.au.

Forgotten User name

If you have forgotten your user name, you can retrieve it online. This can be done using the forgotten user name link of the eReturns front page. eReturns will send you an email containing your user name.



Clicking forgotten user name will take you to the user name retrieval screen where you will need to enter your email address and the CAPTCHA text on screen.



Alternatively, you can contact the Disclosure team on 02 6271 4552 or email fad@aec.gov.au.

Other problems

If you experience any difficulties while using eReturns, please contact the Disclosure team on 02 6271 4552 or email fad@aec.gov.au.