



Media release

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Fake car salesman's GST scheme runs out of gas

A Queenslanders has today been sentenced in the Hervey Bay District Court to 3 years jail for GST fraud, claiming refunds he wasn't entitled to.

Mr Robert Hill registered a 'Family Partnership' with his wife and obtained an ABN in 2010, describing the business activity as 'Cafes and Restaurants'.

Contrary to the business description registered, Mr Hill told auditors he was in the business of buying and selling vehicles, claiming to have sold around 20. He also claimed to have received an inheritance that allowed him to spend over \$2.4 million on expenses and purchases.

Between 1 August 2011 and 28 February 2015, the business claimed over \$228,328 in GST refunds they weren't entitled to. A comprehensive audit found there was no evidence of sales or purchases reported by the entity during this period to support these claims.

Acting Assistant Commissioner David Mendoza said it was astounding that people use tactics like this to cheat the tax system.

"Evading your tax obligations, or trying to get more than you're entitled to, is a crime. We will not tolerate this behaviour," Mr Mendoza said.

"When people claim a refund they're not entitled to, they're stealing from the community and disadvantaging everyone who does the right thing.

"If you've made an honest mistake or are falling behind on your obligations, we will work with you to find a solution, but people who deliberately set out to cheat the tax system will be held to account".

To report known or suspected phoenix, tax evasion or black economy behaviour, complete the tip-off form at ato.gov.au/tipoff or phone the Black Economy hotline on **1800 060 062**.