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TAX CARE

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EOFY 2018 Checklist For Employment-related Tax Deductions

This should be used as a guide only. Contact us or your professional adviser if you've further questions.

Item	Tax deductible
Admission fees: For lawyers and other professionals. Disallowed as capital cost.	No
Airport lounge membership: Deductions to the extent used for work-related purposes.	Yes
Annual practising certificate: Applies to professional persons and other contractors who must pay an annual fee to practice in their chosen field.	Yes
Bank charges: Deductions are allowed if account earns interest. Not private transaction fees.	Yes
Bribes to government officials and foreign government officials: Also exclude from the cost base and reduced cost base of CGT assets and cost of depreciating assets.	No
Briefcase: If used for work and/or business purposes the cost is fully deductible if \$300 or less. If more than \$300, it must be depreciated.	Yes
Calculators and electronic organisers: If used for work and/or business purposes the cost is fully deductible if \$300 or less. If more than \$300, it must be depreciated.	Yes
Car: See <i>Travel</i> .	
Child care fees	No
Cleaning: Of protective clothing and uniforms.	Yes
Clothing, uniforms and footwear	Yes
Compulsory uniform: Uniform must be unique and particular to an organisation (eg corporate uniform).	Yes
Non-compulsory uniform: If on a register kept by the Department of Industry, Science and Tourism.	Yes
Occupational specific: The clothing identifies a particular trade, vocation or profession (eg chefs and nurses).	Yes
Protective: Must be used to protect the person or their conventional clothing. May include sunscreen.	Yes
Club membership fees	No
Coaching classes: Allowed to performing artists to maintain existing skills or obtain related skills.	Yes

Computers and software: Software is deductible if it costs less than \$300, otherwise deductible over 2.5 years. Except in-house developed software which is over five years (four years before 1 July 2015)	Yes
Conferences, seminars and training courses: Allowed if designed to maintain or increase employee's knowledge, skills or ability.	Yes
Conventional clothing	No
Depreciation: Tools, equipment, and plant used for work purposes for each item costing more than \$300. Items costing \$300 or less are deductible outright in the year of	Yes
Driver's licence: Cost of acquiring and renewing.	No
Dry cleaning: Allowed if the cost of the clothing is also deductible.	Yes
Election expenses of candidates: No limit for Federal, State and Territory. Limit of \$1,000 for local government.	Yes
Employment agreements: Existing employer (see TR 2000/5).	Yes
Not available for new business/employer.	No
Fines: Imposed by court, or under law of Commonwealth, State, Territory or foreign country (s26-5).	No
First Aid course: Provided it is directly related to employment or business activities.	Yes
Gaming licence: Hospitality and gaming industry.	Yes
Gifts of \$2 or more: If made to approved "deductible gift recipient" body or fund. See ato.gov.au for a full list. Gifts to clients are deductible if employees can demonstrate a direct connection with earning assessable income.	Yes
Glasses and contact lenses (prescribed): These would qualify as medical expenses. Deductible if "protective clothing".	No
Glasses and goggles: Protective only.	Yes
Grooming	No
HELP/HECS repayments	No
Home office expenses: Utility expenses (for example, heat, light, power and depreciation on depreciating assets).	Yes
Occupancy expenses: For example, rent, insurance, rates and land tax. Deductible only to the extent that home or study is used for income-producing purposes.	Yes
Income continuance insurance: Allowed only if the proceeds are assessable.	Yes
Insurance – sickness or accident: When benefits would be assessable income.	Yes
Interest: Allowed if money borrowed for work-related purposes or to finance income earning assets. Interest paid on underpayment of tax (eg general interest charge) is deductible.	Yes
Fines and administrative penalties are not deductible. Interest on capital protected loans deductible except for non-deductible capital protection component.	NO
Internet and computer equipment: Expenses allowed to the extent incurred in deriving individual's work-related income, carrying on a business or earning investment income (eg share investing).	Yes
Laundry and maintenance: Allowed if the cost of clothing is allowable (see Work related clothing). Reasonable claims of laundry expenses up to \$150 do not need to be substantiated.	Yes
Legal expenses: Renewal of existing employment contract.	Yes
Meals	
Eaten during normal working day.	No

Meals acquired when travelling overnight for work-related purpose.	Yes
Meals when travelling (not overnight).	No
Overtime meals: If allowance received under award.	Yes
Medical examination: Only if from the referral of a work-related business licence.	Yes
Motor vehicle expenses: See <i>Travel expenses</i> .	
Newspapers: Claims may be allowed in limited cases if the publication is directly related to income-producing activities.	No
Overtime meal expenses: Only if award overtime meal allowance received.	Yes
Parking fees and tolls: Includes bridge and road tolls (but not fines) paid while travelling for work-related purposes.	Yes
Photographs (performing arts – with income producing purpose)	
Cost of maintaining portfolio.	Yes
Cost of preparing portfolio.	No
Practising certificate: Applies to professional employees.	Yes
Prepaid expenditure for tax shelter arrangements: They must be spread over the period in which the services are provided.	Yes
Prepaid expenses: Non-business individuals and SBE taxpayers claim is fully deductible if services are to be performed in period not exceeding 12 months. All other taxpayers must apportion claim over the period of service.	Yes
Professional association and membership fees: Maximum of \$42 if no longer gaining assessable income from that profession. Up front joining fees are generally capital in nature so would not be deductible under s8-1. Annual deductions may also be available in the same year under s8-1 where the criteria are satisfied – s25-55.	Yes
Professional library (books, CDs, videos etc) Established library (depreciation allowed)	Yes
New books: Full claim if cost \$300 or less (includes a set if total cost is \$300 or less).	Yes
New books: Depreciation if cost over \$300 (includes a set if total cost is more than \$300).	Yes
Protective equipment: Includes harnesses, goggles, safety glasses, breathing masks, helmets, boots. Claims for sunscreens, sunglasses and wet weather gear allowed if used to provide protection from natural environment.	Yes
Removal and relocation costs If paid by the employer, may be exempt from FBT, but deductible.	No
Repairs (income producing property/or work-related equipment).	Yes
Self-education costs: Claims for fees, books, travel (see below) and equipment etc allowed if there is a direct connection between the course and the person's income earning activities. No claim for the first \$250 if course is undertaken at school or other educational institution and the course confers a qualification. However, that first \$250 can be offset against private expenses, eg travel, child minding fees, etc.	Yes
Seminars Including conference and training courses if sufficiently connected to work activities.	Yes
Social functions	No
Stationery (diaries, log books etc.)	Yes
Subscriptions	
Publications If a direct connection between publication and income earned by taxpayer.	Yes
Sports clubs.	No
Sun protection Claims for sunglasses, hats and sunscreen allowed for taxpayers who work outside.	Yes

Superannuation contributions: Claims allowed in respect of employees. Substantially self-employed persons if their assessable income, reportable fringe benefits plus reportable employer superannuation contributions is less than 10% of their total assessable income from all sources, reportable fringe benefits plus reportable employer superannuation contributions total.	Yes
No deduction is available for interest on borrowed monies used to finance deductible personal superannuation contributions.	No
Supreme Court library fees Applies to barristers and solicitors if paid on annual basis.	Yes
Tax agent fees (deduction can be claimed in the income year the expense is incurred).	Yes
Travel and accommodation expenses if for travel to a tax agent or other recognised tax adviser to obtain tax advice, have returns prepared, be present at audit or object against an assessment.	Yes
Cost of other incidentals if incurred in having tax return prepared, lodging an objection or appeal or defending an audit.	Yes
Technical and professional publications	Yes
Telephones and other telecommunications equipment (including mobiles, pagers and beepers.) Cost of telephone calls (related to work purposes).	Yes
Installation or connection.	No
Rental charges (if "on call" or required to use on regular basis).	Yes
Silent telephone number.	No
Tools (work related only) If cost is \$300 or less.	Yes
If cost more than \$300, the amount would be depreciable, and the amount deductible equals to the decline in value).	Yes
Trauma insurance If benefits capital in nature.	No
Travel expenses Including public transport, motor vehicles and motor cycles, fares, accommodation, meals and incidentals.	Yes
Travel between home and work.	No
Where employee has no usual place of employment (eg travelling salesperson).	Yes
If "on call".	No
If actually working before leaving home (eg doctor giving instructions over phone from home. Note that this applies in limited circumstances only).	Yes
Must transport bulky equipment (eg builder with bulky tools).	Yes
Travel from home (which is a place of business) to usual place of employment.	No
Travel from home to alternate work place (for work-related purposes) and return to normal work place (or directly home).	Yes
Travel between normal work place and alternate place of employment (or place of business) and return (or directly home).	Yes
Travel between two work places.	Yes
Travel in course of employment: Note substantiation rules.	Yes
Travel accompanied by relative (may be allowed if relative is also performing work-related duties).	No
Union and professional association fees	Yes
Vaccinations	No
Union levees	No
Watch: Unless job specific such as a nurse's job watch.	No