

Employee lawyers: tax deductions ruling

The Australian Taxation Office has prepared information on tax deductions specifically for employee lawyers. The taxation ruling for employee lawyers explains the claims that you can and cannot make by looking at the common expenses you may incur as a lawyer.

The key rules for claiming deductions are:

- You must have spent the money in 1994-95;
- You must have incurred the expense in the course of earning your income;
- As a rule, for total claims over \$300, you must have a written evidence to prove your claim.

This guide is a simple summary of the ruling. Use it with *TaxPack 95* to get your deduction claims right. It will help you work out what claims you can make — if you have spent money and you have the written evidence you need to prove your claims.

When you sign your tax return, you are declaring that everything you have told us is true and that you have, or you can get, the written evidence you need to prove your claims. You are responsible for this proof even if you use a tax agent.

You can buy a full version of the taxation ruling for employee lawyers from your local tax office. See the inside of the back cover of *Taxpack 95* for the address or ring the extended hours distribution service on Freecall 1800 150 150.

Expenses	Is it Allowable		
	Yes	No	Maybe
Admission fees		No	
Annual practising certificate	Yes		
Bank fees	Yes		
Briefcases	Yes		See Ruling
Calculators and electronic organisers	Yes		
Child care		No	
Clothing — normal/conventional		No	
Club membership fees		No	
Computers and software — depreciation	Yes		See Ruling
Conferences, seminars and training courses	Yes		
Depreciation, insurance and repairs to equipment	Yes		
Driver's licence		No	
Fares for work activities	Yes		See Ruling
Fines		No	
Footwear		No	
Home to work travel		No	
Home office expenses			See Ruling
Insurance — income continuance	Yes		
Interest on money borrowed for work activities	Yes		
Laundry and maintenance of clothing/uniforms/footwear	Yes		See Ruling
Meals		No	
Motor vehicle and other transport expenses			See Ruling
Newspapers		No	
Parking fees and tolls for work travel	Yes		
Practising certificate	Yes		
Professional indemnity insurance	Yes		
Professional library	Yes		See Ruling
Removal and relocation expenses		No	
Self education			See Ruling
Social functions		No	
Stationery	Yes		
Supreme Court Library fees	Yes		
Suspension from practice — defence costs		No	
Technical or professional publications	Yes		
Telecommunications eg pager, mobile phone			See Ruling
Transport expenses			See Ruling
Travel expenses	Yes		
Uniforms	Yes		See Ruling

REMEMBER:

- Make sure you write down all of your income tax return. Include any benefits you got from the government, income from a second job and any interest you received from a bank, building society or credit union.
- Attach your group certificate to your tax return.
- Sign your tax return. It is your responsibility to make sure your tax return is correct, even if you use a tax agent.
- Just because you are paid an allowance, doesn't mean you automatically get a deduction.
- Keep all your records you need to prove your deduction claims. *TaxPack* will help you find out which records you need.