

If you worry about what might be, and wonder what might have been, you will ignore what is.

----- Anon

Tax planning - year ended 30 June 2009

Education tax refund

You might be entitled to claim the education tax refund (ETR) if, in the 2008-09 income year, all of the following applied. You:

1. had a child at primary or secondary school;
2. received family tax benefit (FTB) Part A for that child or received a payment for that child which stopped them from receiving FBT Part A;
3. had eligible education expenses

Independent students can also claim.

Clients can claim 50% of eligible expenses up to:

- \$750 for each eligible child in primary school – that is, a refund of up to \$375;
- \$1500 for each eligible child in secondary school or for an independent student – that is, a refund of up to \$750.

Eligible expenses include the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- Laptops, home computers and associated costs;

- Computer-related equipment such as printers, UBS flash drives

and disability computer aids for students;

- Home internet connections;

- Educational software

- Word processing, spreadsheet, database and presentation software, internet filters and antivirus software;

- School textbooks, other paper-based school learning material and associated learning materials, such as stationery;

- Trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses.

Family Tax Benefits (FTB)

Australian federal Government has announced new legislation to make FTB payments no longer payable through the Australian Taxation Office.

What does this mean for you?

- You will no longer be able to claim a lump sum payment for FTB through the Australian Taxation Office, when you lodge your 2008-09 tax return and onwards.

- FTB top-up payments will not be included on your taxation notice of assessment.

How to claim for the 2008-09 financial year?

You have two options for claiming FTB through Medicare Australia or Centrelink:

1. Lodge a lump sum claim after the end of the financial year for the 2008-09 year. It is important to remember you will not receive any payment until you and/or your partner have lodged your income tax return for the same financial year as claimed.
2. Lodge a claim for fortnightly payments, based on an estimate of your income.

You can claim FTB:

- Online at www.familyassist.gov.au or
- By lodging a paper claim form in person at a Medicare Australia Office or a Centrelink Customer Service Centre.