



EDUCATION TAX REFUND

Overview

The Education Tax Refund (ETR) was introduced in the 2009 year to help eligible families & independent students meet the cost of primary and secondary school education. The first time you can claim the ETR is in your 2008-09 tax return.

Who is eligible?

Families and approved care organisations can claim 50% of their eligible educational expenses if:

- they received family tax benefit (FTB) Part A for the child, **or**
- a payment was made for the child that stopped them from receiving FTB Part A for that child (e.g. child received youth allowance)

Independent students may also be eligible to claim the ETR. You are considered an independent student if all of the following are satisfied, you:

- were undertaking full-time secondary school studies at secondary school or an education institution such as a TAFE
- were under 25 years of age
- were an Australian resident or a special category visa holder and lived in Australia

How is the refund claimed?

- Directly in your tax return
- If you are not required to lodge a tax return, then through a standalone claim form

How much refund can I claim?

The ETR is calculated on 50% of eligible education expenses incurred during the financial year. **For the 2010-11 tax year, you can claim up to:**

- \$794 for each eligible child in primary school - that is, a refund of up to \$397.
- \$1,588 for each eligible child in secondary school - that is, a refund of up to \$794.
- \$1,588 for each eligible independent student in secondary school - that is, a refund of up to \$794.

The refund amounts will vary according to the following factors:-

- Whether you have full care of the child
- Whether you have shared care of the child
- Whether you have an agreed percentage



What are eligible education expenses?

- laptops, iPads, home computers and associated costs
- computer-related equipment such as printers, USB flash drives, as well as disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special need
- home internet connections, including the costs of establishing and maintaining
- computer software for educational use
- word processing, spreadsheet, database and presentation software, internet filters and antivirus software
- school textbooks and other paper-based school learning material, including prescribed textbooks, associated learning materials, study guides and stationery
- prescribed trade tools, eg tools required to complete a school-based apprenticeship.

What are ineligible education expenses?

- school fees and waiting list fees
- school uniform expenses (may be claimable in 2011-12 year, subject to legislation)
- student attendance at school-based extracurricular activities, eg excursions, camps
- tutoring costs
- sporting equipment
- musical instruments
- school subject levies, eg, payment for consumables for particular subjects such as woodwork, art or home science
- building levies
- library book fees
- school photos
- donations
- tuck shop expenses
- transport
- membership fees, and
- computer games and consoles

Other Useful Information

- You are able to carry forward excess expenses from one year to the next, for one year only.
- You are able to share expenses between children (e.g. purchase of a computer)
- You can combine the limit for each child to maximise the entitlement.
- You can claim expenses for children attending TAFE/technical school if the child is undertaking secondary school studies, but not for trade or general courses.
- You cannot claim for children at university.
- You can combine the limit for each child to maximise the entitlement.
- There is no need to apportion the expense if it is not exclusively used for educational purposes.