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Notice the Difference

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR UPDATE 30 JUNE 2017

The end of the financial year is fast approaching. This is why we have released our 2016/17 Individual Tax Checklist and our 2016/17 Year-End Checklist for Business covering matters to be addressed to ensure your affairs are as tax effective as possible. There are many other areas of taxation that should also be addressed (which we certainly can assist you with), such as self-managed superannuation funds, company and trusts, but this update focusses on personal and business tax affairs.

2016/17 Individual Tax Return Checklist

Your Checklist

- Claims for deductions ✓
- Receipts for deductions ✓
- Car claims and log books ✓

Please review the information below and contact our office if you need assistance.

Tax saving strategies prior to 1 July 2017

A good strategy to reduce tax payable is normally to accelerate any income tax deductions into the current income year, which will reduce overall taxable income in the current year.

The tax rates for resident (adult) individual taxpayers for the **2016/17** income year are as follows:

Taxable Income threshold	Tax payable[1]
0 – $18,200	Nil
$18,201 – $37,000	19% of excess over $18,200
$37,001 – $87,000	$3,572 + 32.5% of excess over $37,000
$87,001 – $180,000	$19,822 + 37% of excess over $87,000
$180,001 and over	$54,232 + 47%[2] of excess over $180,000

1. *The Medicare levy of 2% generally applies in addition to these rates.*
2. *This rate includes the 2% 'Temporary Budget Repair Levy' which applies from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017 on that part of a person's taxable income that exceeds $180,000.*

Common claims made by individuals

The following outlines common types of deductible expenses claimed by individual taxpayers, such as employees and rental property owners, plus some strategies that can be adopted to increase deductions for the 2016/17 income year.

1. Depreciable plant, etc, costing $300 or less

Salary and wage earners and rental property owners will generally be entitled to an immediate deduction if certain income-producing assets costing $300 or less are purchased before 1 July 2017.

Some purchases you may consider include:

- books and trade journals;
- briefcases/luggage or suitcases;
- calculators, electronic organisers;
- electronic tablets;
- software;
- stationery; and
- tools of trade.

2. Clothing expenses

Purchase or pay for work-related clothing expenses prior to the end of the income year, such as:

- compulsory (or non-compulsory and registered) uniforms, and occupation specific and protective clothing;
- other expenses associated with such work-related clothing, such as dry cleaning, laundry and repair expenses.

3. Self education expenses

Consider prepaying the following self education items before the end of the income year:

- course fees (but not HECS-HELP fees), student union fees, and tutorial fees;
- interest on borrowings used to pay for any deductible self education expenses.

Also bring forward purchases of stationery and text books (i.e., those which are not required to be depreciated).

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4. Other work-related expenses

Employees can prepay any of the following expenses prior to 1 July 2017:

- union fees;
- subscriptions to trade, professional or business associations;
- magazine and newspaper subscriptions;
- seminars and conferences;
- income protection insurance (excluding death and total/permanent disability).

Note: When prepaying any of the expenses above before 1 July 2017, ensure that any services being paid for are to be provided within a 12 month period that ends before 1 July 2018. Otherwise, the deductions must generally be claimed proportionately over the period of the prepayment.

Information Required

We will need you to bring information to assist us in preparing your income tax return.

Please check the following and bring along payment summaries, statements, accounts, receipts, etc., to help us prepare your return.

Income/Receipts:

- ❑ payment summaries for salary and wages;
- ❑ lump sum and termination payments;
- ❑ government pensions and allowances;
- ❑ other pensions and/or annuities;
- ❑ allowances (e.g., entertainment, car, tools);
- ❑ interest, rent and dividends;
- ❑ distributions from partnerships or trusts;
- ❑ details of any assets sold that were either used for income earning purposes or which may be caught by capital gains tax (CGT).

Expenses/Deductions (in addition to those mentioned above):

- award transport allowance claims;
- bank and government charges on deposits of income, and deductible expenditure;
- bridge/road tolls (travelling on business);
- car parking (when travelling on business);
- conventions, conferences and seminars;
- depreciation of library, tools, business equipment (incl. portion of home computer);
- gifts or donations;
- home office running expenses:
  - cleaning
  - cooling and heating
  - depreciation of office furniture
  - lighting
  - telephone and internet;
- interest and dividend deductions:
  - account keeping fees
  - ongoing management fees
  - interest on borrowings to acquire shares
  - advice relating to *changing* investments (but *not* setting them up);
- interest on loans to purchase equipment or income-earning investments;
- motor vehicle expenses (business/work related);
- overtime meal allowances;
- rental property expenses – including:
  - advertising expenses
  - council/water rates
  - insurance
  - interest

  - land tax
  - legal expenses/management fees
  - genuine repairs and maintenance
  - telephone expenses
  - travelling to inspect property;
- superannuation contributions by sole traders or substantially unsupported taxpayers;
- sun protection items;
- tax agent fees;
- telephone expenses (business);
- tools of trade.

How can APS Tax, Accounting & Business Services assist you?

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the topics mentioned above, as well as any other matters relevant to you, your family or friends. If you wish to discuss any year end or tax planning matters, please contact Richard Ferraro from APS Tax, Accounting & Business services on (03) 9322 2000.

This information is general in nature and is not exhaustive. We recommend that you contact our office to ensure that any strategies mentioned below are applicable to your particular circumstances. We have noted in our update where these proposed changes could impact on actions to be taken prior to 30 June 2017.