

Background

In May 2008, the Federal Government announced the introduction of the Education Tax Refund to assist families with the cost of education for school aged children. The start date of this programme was 1 July 2008.

Who is Eligible?

The main eligibility hurdles for receipt of the Education Tax Refund are twofold:

1. Receipt of Family Tax Benefit Part A* for the child, or you would have received Family Tax Benefit Part A except for the fact you received a pension or benefit (such as Youth Allowance) or the child stopped working and received income over the cut out amount; and
2. Child was in primary or secondary school (includes home schooled or secondary school education at TAFE).

* *Family Tax Benefit A is an income tested support payment based upon family income. Families can be eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A when their income is less than \$100,801 per annum however this threshold increases based on the number and age of children.*

Independent students can also be eligible for the Education Tax Refund.

What You Can Claim?

The Education Tax Refund can be claimed for the cost of buying, repairing, establishing and maintaining any of the following:

- Laptops and home computers
- Computer related equipment (printers, USB flash drives)
- Home internet connections
- Computer software for educational use (word processing, spreadsheeting, database and presentation software, internet filters, antivirus software)
- School textbooks and other paper based school learning material, including prescribed textbooks, associated learning materials, study guides and stationary
- Prescribed trade tools

More information

- Call 1300 314 335
- Email info@f3fs.com.au
- Visit www.f3fs.com.au

What You Can't Claim?

The Education Tax Refund cannot be claimed for:

- School fees
- Uniform expenses
- Attending extra-curricular activities
- Tutoring costs
- Musical equipment
- Sporting equipment
- School subject levies
- Computer games and consoles
- Building levies
- Library book fees
- School photos
- Donations
- Tuck shop expenses
- Waiting fees
- Transport
- Membership fees

How Much Can I Claim?

Claims can be made for up to \$750 for each child in primary school and \$1,500 for each child in secondary school. The Education Tax Refund will be 50% of your expenses. This means that the Education Tax Refund is limited to \$375 for each eligible child attending primary school and \$750 for those attending secondary school.

[Note - If you share the care of your child with a person who is not your current partner, the amount you can claim is likely to differ to the amounts described above.]

Rolling Over Expenses

If your eligible education expenses exceed the threshold, you can carry forward your excess expenses from one year to the next if you remain eligible – but for one year only.

Claiming the Education Tax Refund

The first year of the Education Tax Refund is the 2008/2009 financial year. To claim the refund, you will need to answer the specific question on your 2008/2009 income tax return.

Keeping Receipts

If you think you maybe eligible, it is important that you keep all of your receipts and records for any relevant expenditure items. You will need these when completing your next return.

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