



Commonly Forgotten Personal Tax Deductions

Having helped over 1 million Australians with their tax returns over the past 50 years, the tax accountants at ITP know a thing or two about maximising tax deductions and reducing the overall tax people pay. Most people simply don't know all of their valid claims and pay more tax than they have to. So, what are the most common tax deductions people miss when they lodge their tax return.

The Cost Of The Tax Agent

Using a tax agent is actually a cost-effective expense. The fee is a valid tax deduction, and can even be taken out of your tax return so you won't be out of pocket. Not only will your tax accountant get a better tax return for you, they won't cost you a cent. In most cases, you'll come out on top.

Not only that, but the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) recommends people use a tax agent when lodging their tax returns. The ATO recognises the role of tax agents in making sure their client's claims are reasonable and valid, but the tax agent can also work as a go-between in case there is something wrong. They also have the authority to lodge your tax return after the October 31 date, giving you extra time if needed.

If you are behind on your tax, an ITP tax accountant can work with you and lodge previous year's tax returns as well. Even if you've lodged your own return

and didn't get the refund you were expecting, all is not lost. A tax agent can amend any of your tax returns lodged within the last 2 years for you.

Union and subscription fees

Many workplaces require that a union be joined as a part of your job. Their fees are a deduction off your taxable income. Also available are subscriptions and membership fees to professional bodies, magazines, and associations if they are a direct link to earning your income.

Mobile phone

In today's world, work doesn't stop at 5 pm. Many people make work-related calls from their personal device, and many people miss this tax deduction. Make a note of your calls and highlight the business calls on 1 itemised monthly statement per year. If your phone calls directly relate to deriving your income, you can make a valid claim. Adding those extra calls during the year does make an impact.

The same deductions can be made for internet usage. Keep a track of the time spent on your home computer as you surf the net for work or respond to work-related emails. An hour each day adds up, and at the end of the year can tally up and amount to a sizeable tax deduction.