

# Truck Driver



Are you a truck driver? You should know what you can claim, as well as what you cannot. Here are all the details you need



The key is to determining which among the expenses can be claimed for a deduction. Here are the clues:

- ✓ You paid for the fee from your own pocket.
- ✓ Your employer did not reimburse you for the money you used to pay for the item or service
- ✓ The product or service directly affects your income
- ✓ You have a record that shows you did make the purchase

## Car Expenses

Claimable expenses include:

- ✓ Driving from one workplace to another for two (or more) separate jobs in one day
- ✓ Driving to a different workplace under the same company or employer, such as going between depots

You cannot claim the trip expenses from your home to work or vice versa. This rule applies even if you live far away from your workplace. A few exceptions for this restriction are:

- ✓ Moving a piece of heavy or bulky equipment from work to home or vice versa
- ✓ No secure area was available to store the equipment  
It weighed at least 20kg
- ✓ The material was tough to move from one place to another
- ✓ The equipment directly affects your income

Your employer should also require you to transport these equipments for you to get a deduction. A logbook may be necessary, which will help the ATO figure out the work-related percentage of the expense.

## Clothing Expenses

Some of the things that you can claim:

- ✓ All costs incurred in hiring, mending, buying, or cleaning your uniforms. They should be distinct to your job and company.
  - ✓ Protective clothing purchases and other costs can also be claimed.
- ✗ Uniforms do not include jeans and shirts, even if you only wear them for work.

## Travel Expenses

Travelling to a remote area aside from your workplace entitles you to a deduction. You can claim it as long as you were performing your job. Expenses you may have incurred include:

- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Fares

Other costs also entitle you to a tax deduction provided that your employer did not reimburse you after your journey.

- ✗ Travel allowances are not included when claiming a deduction. You should provide proof that you did stay at the specific place overnight and that the trip had a direct effect on the income you earn.
- ✗ If you, however, slept in your truck, you cannot reimburse your expenses for it. One more exception is if the employer already gave you a place to stay.

## Phone and Internet Expenses

- ✓ Using the phone and Internet for work-related communication entitles you to a deduction. Your employer may require you to use your personal device where all expenses can be claimed.

## Other Expenses

Everything else that you may have purchased or rented can be claimed. If they are work-related, a portion of the expense can be deducted from your tax payment. Other things to note about are:

- ✓ Union fees
- ✓ Steel-toe boots, sunhats, sunscreen, and other personal protective equipment
- ✓ Restraining ropes

When you have a record of the expenses and your employee has not reimbursed the costs yet, they can be claimed.

