

Police Officer



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

As a police officer, you are entitled to claim a tax deduction for the following:

- ✓ Payments made that were not reimbursed
- ✓ Work-related purchases

If you have a record to prove that you have made the purchase, it will be easy to claim a deduction.

Car Expenses

Deductions can be claimed for the following scenarios:

- ✓ If you work as a police officer and a security guard, you will have to travel from the police station to your second job.
- ✓ You have to drive to a crime scene from your workplace.

You can have the same employer or a different one. Both are claimable for deductions.

✗ However, you cannot claim your fuel or driving expense from home to work even if you live far from the police station. Costs incurred when driving for night shifts outside business hours cannot be claimed as well.

The following are exceptions that you can claim for travelling from work to home:

- ✓ Your employer instructed you to bring a cumbersome tool or piece of equipment home.
- ✓ There was no available storage for the item.
- ✓ This particular equipment was directly related to your income.
- ✓ It was at least 20kg or cannot be easily transported

The trips for the situations above are deductible. You may need to present a logbook to the Australian Taxation Office if you wish to use your own calculation for the trip costs.

Self-Education Expenses

✓ If you take a course that is directly related to your job as a police officer, such as defensive driving, you can claim a deduction.

✗ However, expenses for classes that help you get a job outside the police force cannot be claimed.

Uniform Expenses

✓ You can request a deduction for buying, repairing, and cleaning your uniform as a police officer.

✗ Expenses for plain clothing – even those allowed by your employer – will not be honoured.

Phone and Internet Expenses

✓ Using your phone for work can be claimed as long as your employer requests you to use it. However, you can only claim a portion of your expenses.

Others

✓ Every expense that you have paid for, as long as it is directly related to your employment or your income, can be claimed. For example, you can claim fees for professional and union association, as well as the costs of technical and other types of publications that you have subscribed to.

On the other hand, you cannot claim deductions for expenses on personal use, such as:

- ✗ Grooming, such as haircuts and other supplies for improving health and appearance
- ✗ Weight loss programs
- ✗ Expenses concerning social functions

Fitness expenses are generally not claimable, except when your work requires you to be fitter than the usual police standards. For example, those who work for special operations can claim a deduction for such an expense.

