

# Australian Defense Force



Are you an Australian Defense Force Officer? You should know what you can claim, as well as what you cannot. Here are all the details you need



There are a few points to bear in mind:

- ✓ You can claim most of the things you have spent your money on
- ✓ If it is purchased in relation to your job, you have a better chance at making a claim
- ✓ Your employer did not reimburse you for the expense
- ✓ You have a record that proves you made the purchase

If you meet the conditions mentioned above, you may file for a tax refund.

## Car Expenses

Do you have two separate jobs in different locations?

- ✓ You can get reimbursed for the expenses you paid for on gas. You can also claim a deduction, even if you have the same employer.

As long as they are in separate locations, you can get a deduction. For instance, you need to travel to another military base for work. You will need to provide a logbook for the costs incurred.

Be aware that some car or travel expenses cannot be claimed, including:

- ✗ Trips from home to work and vice versa
- ✗ Travelling to work outside of the regular hours

An exception is if you were asked to carry a bulky item from your workplace to your house. This item should be essential to your income.

## Self Education Expenses

- ✓ If you take up a course that will help you be more efficient for your current job, your expenses can be deducted from your tax.
- ✗ However, claims for studying or attending a seminar that is only indirectly related to the present position as an Australian Defence officer will not be accepted.

## Home Office Expenses

Working from home can give you some deductions during tax time. You can claim the following:

- ✓ Depreciation of computers and other office equipment
- ✓ All phone calls relating to work
- ✓ Work-required online research (i.e., Internet access charges)
- ✓ Power bills for heating, cooling, and lighting

Note that work equipment, including computers, depreciate over time. If it costs less than \$300, you can claim the entire amount. However, if it is more than \$300, the total deduction will be spread over a certain number of years. Since it will decline in value, you can only claim a partial amount.

## Fitness Expenses

- ✓ Physical training instructors and those who are required to maintain their figure can claim a deduction in their taxes.
- ✗ However, if it is for personal gain, claims will not be accepted.

## Others

The claims that you can make are easy enough to understand. As long as they are related to your job, they can be a part of the deduction.

The following can all be claimed for deductions:

- ✓ If you subscribe to publications that will help your knowledge in your duties, you can also claim for the subscriptions.
- ✓ Professional association and union fees.
- ✗ Note that you cannot claim expenses shelled out during social functions – even if you were obliged to attend. Other grooming expenses, as well as joining weight loss programs, will not be deducted.

