

Teacher

Are you a teacher? Knowing what you can and cannot claim is essential at tax time. Teachers often spend their own money on work-related items, and claiming correctly ensures you don't pay more tax than you owe.

**Tax
Guide**

To claim, the general rules are:

- You paid for the expense yourself and weren't reimbursed.
- The expense directly relates to your teaching income.
- You keep records such as receipts, logbooks, or diary notes.



Self-Education Expenses

Professional learning is part of a teacher's career, and the ATO allows deductions for training that builds skills you use in your current role.

Claimable

- Course fees, textbooks, stationery, and travel for study directly related to your teaching work.
- Example: Training to support students with additional learning needs.

Not Claimable

- Courses that help you move into a new career or position (e.g. aide to qualified teacher).
- General education or unrelated training.

Car Expenses

Teachers sometimes need to drive for work, and only certain trips qualify as deductions.

Claimable

- Travel between schools on the same day.
- Travel directly from one job to another.
- Transporting bulky equipment (20kg+ or awkward to carry) when no storage is available at school.

Not Claimable

- Everyday home-to-work travel.

Tip: Use a logbook or the cents-per-kilometre method to support your claim.

Home Office Expenses

Many teachers prepare lessons, mark work, or even teach online from home. In these cases, you may be able to claim a portion of your household costs.

Claimable

- Electricity and gas for heating, cooling, and lighting.
- Internet and phone charges (work portion).
- Office supplies and stationery.
- Equipment and technology (if over \$300, depreciate over time).

Not Claimable

- Mortgage interest, rent, or home insurance.

From 1 July 2024

- You can use the fixed-rate method of 70c per hour, which covers energy, internet, phone, and stationery.
- You must keep a record of all hours worked from home during the year (e.g. diary, timesheet, roster, or digital log).

Other Work-Related Expenses

There are many small but important costs teachers incur throughout the year. These can be added together to form useful deductions.

Claimable

- First aid training.
- School trips, excursions, and camps (if you're supervising).
- Teaching aids and classroom resources.
- Union and professional association fees.
- Subscriptions to journals or teaching resources.
- Work-related seminars and conferences.
- Sun protection items like sunscreen, hats, and sunglasses when required outdoors.

Not Claimable

- Student gifts, personal lunches, or non-work purchases.

Clothing Expenses

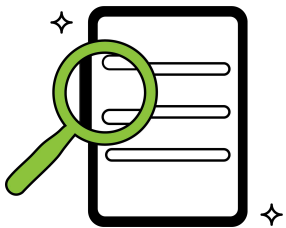
Teachers are not entitled to claim everyday clothing, even if worn to work. Only specific uniforms or protective items qualify.

Claimable

- Compulsory uniforms with school logos.
- Protective clothing (e.g. lab coats, safety vests).
- Laundry and repair costs for deductible clothing.

Not Claimable

- Plain clothes, business attire, or event wear, even if required by your school.



- ✓ Keep records of every expense, no matter how small
- ✓ Use ATO-approved methods (logbooks, fixed rate) to substantiate claims.
- ✓ Review your deductions each year to ensure compliance with ATO rules.