



ATO Interest Remissions

After the global financial crisis the ATO has introduced remissions of interest where a small business has trouble paying their tax debts. You must have a genuine reason why you cannot pay the debt. If you are in this category or you have family and friends with the issue please contact this office. We have saved several clients over \$10,000 interest each!!

Fair Work Act - Reminder

The Fair work Act commenced operation on 1 July 2009 and became fully operational on 1 January 2010. There is an Australian Government funded website that provides free information on changes to unfair dismissal laws, collective bargaining and more. The website is www.fairworkforsmallbusiness.com.au.

Small Business Victoria Newsletter

This is a free newsletter with articles regarding small business including links to information regarding government grants and programs. Please contact us if you want a copy of the newsletter or email them directly with your request on service@business.vic.gov.au

New Land Tax Notification requirements

Recent amendments make it an offence if you do not notify the State Revenue Office (SRO) of any changes to your address, acquire or sell land, contact details or errors in your 2010 Land Tax within 60 days of receiving your annual assessment.

New Means Testing on Entrepreneur Tax Offset (ETO)

The Entrepreneurs Tax Offset allows reductions of up to 25% of the income tax attributable to business income of small businesses. The new means testing applies from 1 July 2009. The ETO will be phased out at 20 cents for every 1 dollar of income above the threshold amount. The income test includes taxable income, add back of net investment losses, reportable fringe benefit amount and reportable superannuation contribution but excludes net small business income. The threshold amount for singles is \$70,000 and for families is \$120,000.

Income for HELP/SFSS Repayment Purposes

From the 2009-10 income year, the components of repayment income for Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) and Student Financial Supplement Scheme (SFSS) will include:

- Taxable income
- Add back of net investment losses (including net rental losses and net financial investment losses)
- Reportable fringe benefit amount (as shown in the Payment Summary)
- Any exempt foreign employment income
- Reportable super contribution

Income for Medicare Levy Surcharge Purposes

When a tax payer is not exempt from paying Medicare Levy and does not have appropriate private hospital cover, a 1% surcharge is imposed on top of 1.5% Medicare Levy if tax payer's income exceeds the Medicare Levy Surcharge threshold.

Starting 1 July 2009, this income includes:

- Taxable income
- Reportable fringe benefit amount (as shown in the Payment Summary)
- Exempt foreign employment income (if taxable income \$1 or more)
- Reportable super contribution
- Add back of net investment losses (including net rental losses and net financial investment losses)
- Less, if the tax payer aged 55 to 59, any taxed element of superannuation lump sum other than death benefit that does not exceed low rate cap

The Medicare Levy Surcharge threshold is currently \$70,000 for singles and \$140,000 minimum for families, then increases depending on the number of dependent children.

Flattening Out Cash Flow

We are introducing the option of monthly invoicing for year end compliance work. This involves spreading out or distributing annual accountancy fees to more than one payment. Please contact us if you are interested in this option.

New Self Managed Superannuation Fund (SMSF) Registration Takes Longer

As part of protecting retirement savings against illegal release, the ATO has introduced changes in new Self Managed Superannuation Fund registration where ATO will thoroughly assess new applications. It will take 7 days before a new Self Managed Superannuation Fund appears in Super Fund Look Up (SFLU). SFLU is a part of www.business.gov.au where members of the public can perform a search on ABN. Once the new fund is listed on SFLU, it will be given "Registered" status. The complying status will be given after the first annual return has been assessed. Larger superannuation funds will have an obligation to conduct more stringent identity checks before completing a roll-over into a Self Managed Superannuation Fund. Larger super funds may now request copies of trust deeds, investment strategies and bank account establishment documentation before completing roll-over.

Self Managed Superannuation Seminar – Tuesday 13th April @ 7pm

Our firm would like to invite our existing and prospective clients to attend our next FREE Self Managed Superannuation Seminar being presented by David Gibney. If you have friends or family members who are new to or considering going into superannuation, this seminar would also be beneficial to them. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the opportunities available with setting up your own fund but also the benefits of superannuation generally. The seminar will be held in a small group at the office in an informal setting where participants are invited to join discussion and raise issues of concern to them. The first seminar on this topic last week was a great success. The second seminar will be held on Tuesday 13th April 2010 at 7 pm. We have deferred the commencement time to later in the evening to make it easier to get here. Light refreshments and an information pack will be provided. Due to the level of interest, another seminar may be scheduled in May. Please contact Joedy to register your booking.

Our Patch

Recently we came across a website called www.OurPatch.com.au which is a network of 180 rural and regional websites that has been design to assist small business operators at the local level. OurPatch's aim is to get your business visible on the web via search engines like Google so that people searching for your product or service will find you. To illustrate what this means go to www.google.com.au and type in - accounting Kyneton. You'll notice our listing is just below the map in the first natural search result. OurPatch listings are usually on the first page on search engines like Google, and more often than not are at the top of natural search results.

Take a look at [our listing](#) to get an idea of what you can achieve in terms of look and feel. You will note that our upcoming Self Managed Super Fund for Tuesday 13 April is also advertised at the bottom of the screen.

OurPatch normally charges \$145 incl GST for a premium listing or you can list basic information for free. ***We have been able to strike a deal with OurPatch for our clients at \$120 (plus 10% GST) per year.*** To take advantage of this special offer, send an email to mikebreen@ourpatch.com.au whose contact details are listed below. Once we worked out what to display, he was very helpful in getting my listing up and running with a minimum of fuss and effort.

Michael Breen, National Sales Manager, Regional Media Networks
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If you need further information or to discuss your specific circumstances, please call David or Andy at our office.

The material in this newsletter is for general information only. Independent advice applicable to any specific circumstance must be sought. While all reasonable care has been taken, no liability is accepted for incompleteness or inaccuracies of the information contain in this newsletter. In line with the privacy laws please let us know if you do not wish to receive further newsletters.

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