



2026 Small business Tax checklist

To assist in preparing your business Income Tax Return, please consider the following small business checklist. Completing this checklist & collecting all the relevant information will ensure we maximise your tax refund and minimise any risks.

Business Name	_____
Address	_____
ABN	_____
Entity Type	_____
Business Type	_____

Income

<input type="checkbox"/>	Income from sales and / or the provision of services <ul style="list-style-type: none">Annual turnover. Calculate annual turnover – provide details as necessary, including bank statements, receipts, invoices, cash book records of any other income
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bank statements indicating the nature of each deposit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reconciled cashbook including drawings taken from the business before banking
<input type="checkbox"/>	Debtors listing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bookkeeping files
<input type="checkbox"/>	Banks, building societies, investments and term deposit accounts. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Including bank statements with total interest received
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rental properties <ul style="list-style-type: none">Including annual statement of rental income received
<input type="checkbox"/>	Share trading statements <ul style="list-style-type: none">Statements of shares purchased, sold or held (with price, dates purchased or sold, brokerage/stamp duty)Dividend statements
<input type="checkbox"/>	Purchase & disposal of business assets <ul style="list-style-type: none">Including dates and values of purchase and/or sale (provide asset description)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Capital Gains <ul style="list-style-type: none">Details of any other personal or business assets acquired on or after 20/09/85 that were sold in the tax year.Details of additions/improvements to assets.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Assessable Government & Other Payments <ul style="list-style-type: none">Such as Apprentice subsidies & Disaster Recovery Allowance



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Expenses (Tax deductions that may be claimable by your business)

Three Golden Rules:

1. You have spent the money yourself and you were not reimbursed
2. The expense was directly related to earning your income
3. You have a record to prove the expense

Accident insurance premiums.

Accounting fees. Preparation of income tax and FBT returns etc. including costs relating to investigations, objections and appeals.

Advertising expenses.

Agent's commission. Collection of rent.

Annual leave. If actually paid by the employer (but not on accruing liabilities).

Audit fees.

Bad debts.

Bank charges. Including debits tax.

Borrowing expenses. Claim in full if \$100 or less, otherwise over the period of the loan or one fifth each year if five years is shorter commencing from the date finance is acquired.

Business assets

Eligible small business entities can immediately deduct the business use portion of the cost of eligible depreciating assets costing less than \$20,000. You must first use or install these assets ready for use for a taxable purpose between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026.

- List all business assets showing date of purchase, price, description & expenses.
- How the asset was acquired (i.e. hire purchase, lease or other finance method details & contract).
- Details of any repairs or maintenance to business assets during the tax year.

Business trips.

Business-related cost. If applicable, business related costs of a capital nature that can be written-off in equal amounts over five years commencing from the first day in the income year that the expense was incurred.

Capital works. On buildings and structural improvements.

Car expenses. Applies to employees, partners and self-employed persons.

- Expenditure on fuel, oil, registration, repairs etc.
- Log books. Including odometer readings for the first and last date of the financial year, total business kms for financial year & Engine size



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- Cleaning expenses.**
- Clothing (Uniform & Protective clothing).** In certain circumstances.
- Conference expenses.**
- Copyrights, patents and designs.** See Capital allowance provisions (Division 40). Also consider the R&D concessions for companies.
- Cultural bequests.** If made to Australian fund, public art gallery museum or library.
- Decline in value** (depreciation). Of plant or other assets used in business.
- Directors' fees.** If your operating entity is a company.
- Discharge of mortgage expenses.** Where loan money used to derive assessable income
- Donations of property to deductible gift recipient.** If market value is greater than \$5,000.
- Education expenses.** If paid for employees, but FBT may apply.
- Electricity connection costs.** To business premises. Beware capital allowance provisions (Division 40).
- Entertainment of employees.** However FBT may be payable.
- Environmental impact studies.** Pooled and treated under the uniform capital allowance system (decline in value).
- Environment protection expenditure.**
- Equipment service fees.**
- Exploration or prospecting.** For minerals (including petroleum) and quarry materials.
- Film investment.** 100% deduction for investment in certain Australian made films.
- Freight costs.**
- Fringe benefits tax.**
- Fuel and oil.**



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- Gifts of \$2 or more.** Only for donations to organisations that have the status of Deductible Gift Recipients (DGRs).
- Gifts to clients, etc.** But not if entertainment.
- Gratuities to employees.** Recognition of past services.
- GST.** Claims should be GST exclusive for those businesses that are registered for GST. The GST-inclusive price is deductible for those taxpayers not registered or required to be registered for GST.
- Home office expenses.** Apportionment of interest, rates, etc. only if a business is carried out on the premises and where an area is set aside exclusively for that purpose.
- Insurance premiums.** Accident insurance paid for employees, and other insurance paid in relation to a business or some income-producing property. Details of policy, provider, premiums & amount covered. This is subject to the prepayment rules.
- Interest paid.** Statements for all loans owing by the business, with an end of financial year balance and interest paid.
From 1 July 2025, ATIO amended the tax law to deny income tax deductions for general interest charges (GIC) and shortfall interest charges (SIC).
- Internet and data access costs.** Share investing and business websites. Also beware capital expenditure.
- Land tax.** Business or rental premises. Deductible when incurred. The ATO has released guidance specifying that land tax is incurred in the year to which it refers, not when it is paid.
- Lease payments.**
- Lease preparation, registration or stamping expenses.** Paid by either the landlord or (a business) tenant (s25-20).
- Leave payments.** Paid by employer (but not on accruing liabilities).
- Legal expenses.** Unless capital expenditure, including discharge of a mortgage or relating to borrowing expenses. The nexus with ordinary activities of the business in producing assessable income will determine deductibility.
- Licenses to operate business.** Prepayment rules may apply.
- Losses, current year.** Loss claims by companies may be limited in certain situations. Losses by trusts are subject to trust loss provisions.
- Losses, previous years.** Company losses brought forward may be limited unless the company can pass the continuity of ownership test or the 'same business' test; no time limit for losses incurred after 30 June 1989. Losses by trusts are subject to trust loss provisions.
- Loss (book loss) on disposal of depreciable assets.**



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- Loss on sale of property.** If acquired before 20/09/85 for resale at a profit; if property is sold in the ordinary course of business the loss will be on revenue account, otherwise a capital loss arises pursuant to Part 3 of ITAA97.
- Loss through misappropriation by employees, or by theft**
- Maintenance expenses**
- Management expenses.** Annual fees but not the capital cost of subscribing to some income-earning investments.
- Managing tax affairs.** Costs of travel, accommodation, advice, booklets, seminars etc, depreciation on computers, software and other capital expenditure is deductible if incurred in managing tax affairs.
- Mortgage protection insurance**
- Newspapers for employees.** Depends on occupation. Share traders (and maybe investors) can claim.
- Payroll tax.**
- Petrol and oil.** Subject to substantiation rules.
- Postage.** For investors or businesses.
- Power, lighting and heating.**
- Printing and stationery.**
- Professional or business association subscriptions and fees.** Prepayment rules may apply.
- Project expenditure.** To be written-off over life of project.
- Protective clothing.**
- Rates and taxes.** On income-producing or business properties (not income tax)
- Rebates and discounts.** Given to customers.
- Rental Properties.** Details of all expenditure incurred & the date of purchase of rental property as per contract.
- Rent of business premises.** Including part of the costs for a home used for a business (say, trading stock is stored in an area set aside exclusively for that purpose); but with a home office (or a study) rent cannot be apportioned, but some associated costs are claimable.
- Repairs to cars, equipment, or to an income-producing property**



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- Research & Development costs.**
- Royalties.** Paid for use of equipment etc. – withholding tax may apply.
- Salaries and wages paid to employees.**
- Copies of income statements (payment summaries) and annual reconciliation for salaries and wages.
 - Information relating to Super contributions made for each employee and director.
- Scientific research related to business.** If incurred before July 1995 and R&D claim is not available: accelerated write-offs for capital expenditure into scientific research.
- Self-education expenses.** Only if related to employment/business.
- Seminars & conferences.** In certain circumstances.
- Sickness/accident premiums.** In some cases.
- Solicitor's fees.** That relate to your business.
- Stock purchases & other material purchases.** Total expenditure and relevant documentation.
- Storage expenses.**
- Structural improvements.**
- Subcontractors.** May be considered employees and subject to the 12% superannuation guarantee provisions in certain circumstances.
- Superannuation contributions**
Name of fund, policy number, contributions paid on behalf of each of the owners of the business
- Support payments to a subsidiary.**
- Tax agent's/Accountant's fees.** Preparation of income tax, fringe benefits tax returns, GST etc. including costs relating to investigations, objections and appeals.
- Telephone expenses.**
- Telephone line installation.**
- Tool replacement.** Depreciation if valued over \$300.
- Trade journals.**
- Travel expenses.** Domestic and overseas travel & accommodation, but note the substantiation provisions.
- Uniforms & protective clothing.**



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<input type="checkbox"/>	WorkSafe/WorkCover/workers compensation premium.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other expenses <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not listed above

Other requirements

<input type="checkbox"/>	Value of opening stock on hand at 1 July and closing stock at 30 June.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Value of work in progress at 30 June
<input type="checkbox"/>	Creditor and debtor details
<input type="checkbox"/>	Information about payments to related parties eg: loans to family members
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal income tax/investment details
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spouse/children income and investment details

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- Send us your documentation and we will organise a mutually suitable appointment.



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