



TAX FACTS JUNE 2019

INDIVIDUALS

Capital Gains Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 50% discount applies if assets were held for longer than 12 months. ▪ CONTRACT date is relevant for capital gains, not the settlement date.
Centrelink – Age Pension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entitlement is based on Assessment under an Assets and Income Test – whichever Test provides the lower entitlement will apply. ▪ Income above a basic fortnightly Income Threshold (\$172 for singles & \$304 for couples) reduces Pension by 40c for each dollar over the threshold. Cut-out point is income per fortnight of \$2,024.40 for singles & \$3,096.40 for couples. ▪ A Work Bonus test with up to \$300 of employment income exempt each fortnight also applies, from 1 July 2019. ▪ Assets above a threshold (for homeowners) of \$258,500 for singles & \$387,500 for couples incur a payment taper of \$3.00 per fortnight for each \$1,000 over the threshold. Cut-out point is \$567,250 for singles & \$853,000 for couples. ▪ The basic pension rate is \$843.60 for singles & \$635.90 each for couples per fortnight. ▪ An increase in starting age from 65 to 65.5 took effect 1/7/2017, moving up 6 months every 2 years to reach 67 by 1/7/2023.
Child Care Rebate (CCR) / New Child Care Subsidy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rebate of 50% of Out-Of-Pocket Child Care expenses up to maximum of \$7,613 ▪ CCR is paid directly by Centrelink fortnightly, quarterly or at the end of Financial Year, or can be made direct to the service provider. ▪ From 1 July 2018, CCR and Child Care Benefit will be replaced by a new single Child Care Subsidy ▪ Three factors will determine a family's level of Child Care Subsidy. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Combined Family Income ○ Activity Test – the activity level of both parents ○ Service Type – type of child care service ▪ The Child Care Subsidy will be paid directly to providers to be passed on to families as a fee reduction. ▪ The payment is means tested and is as high as 85% for lower income families, phasing out to NIL for families earning over \$351,248 ▪ There are also hourly caps on rates, depending on the service type. ▪ Make sure you're registered with Centrelink!
Depreciation – rental properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Depreciation is available on rental properties as a tax deduction. ▪ Quantity surveyors reports for this purpose are highly recommended. ▪ Capital Expenditure up to \$300 is fully deductible – TIP – This applies to your ownership interest, so it is possible for a jointly owned property to have expenditure of up to \$600 treated as a full deduction. ▪ Note the depreciation is now no longer available on existing residential properties when purchased, however building write-off is still allowable.
Family Tax Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family Tax Benefit (FTB) is a means tested benefit for families with children. ▪ Claimed direct from Centrelink.

HELP & HECS repayments

- Repayments are based on “repayment” income which includes:
 - Taxable income, plus
 - Net investment losses, plus
 - Total Reportable Fringe Benefits shown on your payment summary, plus
 - Reportable Super Contributions, plus
 - Exempt foreign employment income shown in your tax return.
- This can mean insufficient tax has been withheld to cover the years' repayment – a potential trap resulting in an unexpected tax bill at year end.
- From 1/1/2018 the repayment threshold is \$42,000 per annum and from 1/7/2019 will be \$45,881 per annum
- Overseas residents are now liable for repayments and must report their income each year for assessment.

Imputation credits

- Excess imputation credits on dividends received are **REFUNDABLE** - even if your income is below the tax free threshold.
- Work very well in Self Managed Super Funds.

Land tax

Threshold of \$629,000 for 2018 and \$692,000 for 2019.

- Rate is 1.6% of the amount exceeding the threshold + \$100. A premium rate of 2% is payable on total taxable land value over \$4,231,000 for 2019.
- Surcharge applies to foreign persons of 2.00%
- Office of State Revenue (OSR) must be notified of any property that is potentially liable for land tax. This will generally be any property that is not your main residence.

Low & Middle Income Tax Offset

- *** NEW LOW & MIDDLE INCOME TAX OFFSET** from 1 July 2018. In addition to the low income tax offset –
 - Income up to \$37,000, entitlement is \$200
 - Income over \$37,000 up to \$48,000 amount is \$200, plus 3% for each dollar over \$37,000
 - Income over \$48,000 up to \$90,000, amount is \$530
 - Income over \$90,000, the \$530 entitlement reduces by 1.5% and ceases at income of \$125,333

**Increases to these figures are pending - subject to legislation changes being passed*

- Minors are no unable to access this offset for unearned income.

Medical expenses

- From 2015-16 to 1 July 2019, the offset is only available for out-of-pocket medical expenses relating to disability aids, attendant care or aged care.

Private Health Insurance

- Rebate: Percentage depends on age & income as summarised in the table below.
- To be effective for Medicare Levy Surcharge purposes, ALL dependants must be covered with hospital cover.
- Medicare Levy Surcharge : Income thresholds & percentages apply and could be 1%, 1.25% or 1.5%

	Base Tier	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Income Thresholds				
Singles	Up to \$90,000	\$90,001— \$105,000	\$105,001— \$140,000	\$140,001 and above
Couples /families	Up to \$180,000	\$180,001— \$210,000	\$210,001— \$280,000	\$280,001 and above

Since 1 April 2014, all rebate percentages are adjusted annually by a rebate adjustment factor. The factor is a percentage of the increase in the consumer price index (CPI) and the average annual premium price increase. It will be calculated by the Department of Health each year.

<p>Super *</p> <p>* Contributions Must be paid prior to 30 June.</p> <p><i>Please be mindful of Clearing House processing times</i></p>	<p>Spouse contributions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum tax offset of \$540 can be claimed if your spouse earned less than \$37,000 (ATI) - phasing out to income of \$40,000 - and spouse super contributions were made of \$3,000. Note for 2017-18 onwards, contributions are also subject to the non-concessional contribution cap and transfer balance cap not being exceeded. <p>Co-contributions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$500 co-contribution available for employed / self employed persons who make personal contributions up to \$1,000 into super with assessable (note NOT taxable) income up to \$37,697, phasing out to Nil above \$52,697). Need to be under 71 at the end of the financial year to qualify. <p>Contribution Deduction limits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flat deduction limit of \$25,000 regardless of age From 1/7/2017 personal contributions can be deductible (even for employees – quite a significant change) <p>Personal (Undeducted) Contributions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cap of \$100,000 per annum applies. For those under 65, 3 years of contributions (\$300,000) can potentially be made at one time by bringing forward the following 2 years contributions. Work tests apply for those over 65 wishing to contribute to super. To claim a tax deduction for personal super contributions (if eligible), you must advise the Super Fund and have an acknowledgment from them for the amount being claimed. <p>From 1 July 2019 the federal government has introduced a one-year exemption from the work test for those aged over 65 with a super balance of under \$300,000.</p> <p>Downsizer Contributions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 1 July 2018, people over 65 who are selling their main residence may contribute up to \$300,000 (per person) into their superannuation These contributions will not count towards the non-concessional contribution cap or the total superannuation balance test Available where a property has been held for 10 years or longer
<p>Super changes 2017- 18</p>	<p>The following changes took effect from 1/7/17:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cap of \$1.6 million on the amount that can be transferred into retirement (pension) phase when earnings are tax free – known as the Transfer Balance Cap The threshold which high-income earners pay Division 293 tax on their concessional contributions to super was reduced to \$250,000 from \$300,000. The Low Income Super Tax Offset (LISTO) replaced the Low Income Super Contribution. The LISTO refunds up to \$500 of the tax paid on concessional super contributions for low-income earners with a taxable income of up to \$37,000.
<p>Senior and Pensioner Tax Offset (SAPTO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides effective Tax Free Threshold for retirees of \$32,279 for singles & \$28,974 for members of a couple (2018-19 – unchanged since 2013-14). Phases out at 12.5c per dollar above these income amounts. Offset amount is a maximum of \$2,230 for Singles & \$1,602 for members of a couple.
<p>Shares</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almost everyone holds shares of some kind. Ensure good records are kept as it will be important for capital gains tax purposes when the shares are sold. Dividend Reinvestment Plans (DRP) – dividends are taxable even though you have bought more shares rather than receiving a payment, so they need to be included in your taxable income.

Super Pensions

- Since 1 July 2007, withdrawals and pensions from super are tax free for those over 60.
- Death benefits paid to non-dependants however may attract tax.
- A condition of release must still be satisfied in order to withdraw your money from super before 65.
- Preservation age for super is still 55, which means super can be accessed from age 55 (if born prior to 1/7/1960), however, between 55 & 60, tax is payable on withdrawals and pensions.

Tax Rates & Thresholds

- Resident Adult Tax rates / thresholds

2017-18		2018-19	
Income range (\$)	%	Income range (\$)	%
0 – 18,200	0	0 – 18,200	0
18,201 – 37,000	19	18,201 – 37,000	19
37,001 – 87,000	32.5	37,001 – 90,000	32.5
87,001 – 180,000	37	90,001 – 180,000	37
180,001+	47	180,001+	45

- Medicare Levy is additional (as applicable) at the rate of 2%.

Termination Payments

- Employer Termination Payments (ETP's) (i.e. Ex-gratia payments made by employers on leaving employment) - Tax Rates:

Component	Age	Threshold	Tax Rate
Tax Free Component	Any	N/A	Tax free
Taxable Component	Before Preservation Age	Up to ETP Cap Above ETP Cap	32.0% 47.0%
	After Preservation Age	Up to ETP Cap Above ETP Cap	17.0% 47.0%

- From 1/7/12 the ETP Tax Offset is limited to either a whole-of-income cap or an ETP cap. Only that part of an affected ETP that takes a person's annual income to no more than the applicable cap will receive the ETP tax offset. Amounts above the cap will be taxed at marginal rates. The cap amounts are \$180,000 for the whole-of-income cap & \$205,000 for 2018-19 (\$210,000 for 2019-20) for the ETP cap.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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