

Setting Sail

A TAX BLUEPRINT FOR NEW DOCTORS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE



A step-by-step guide
to help you transition from a
registrar to a fellow

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DISCLAIMER

The information contained within this document is provided for general guidance only . The information is not intended to substitute tailored professional advice.

While efforts have been made to ensure accuracy, tax laws and regulations are subject to change and can vary by jurisdiction.

We recommend that you contact Murray Accounting & Tax for tailored advice that meets your specific needs and circumstances.

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INTRODUCTION

Navigating the transition from a registrar to a fellow can be tricky and overwhelming.

You have had the benefit of having your employer withhold tax from your pay, cover your superannuation obligations and your annual tax return has been relatively straightforward. All of a sudden there's a lot more on your to do list!

This guide is designed to help you navigate this transition and answer some of the issues that come up when you begin working in private practice.

We will step you through the actions you need to take, now that you are fully qualified and we will help you understand your finances and tax position in real time.

For a medical practitioner embarking on a journey in private practice, comprehending your tax and financial position is indispensable for ensuring financial stability and success.

We hope this guide in combination with our masterclass session will empower you to navigate the financial landscape of private practice with confidence and precision, laying a solid foundation for long-term professional and financial success.





As a new fellow, our setting sail package contains the following benefits

1. 1 x 1 hour online masterclass where we walk through your tax requirements and how to set yourself up to start in private practice.
2. Our comprehensive e-book that goes through all the steps that we cover in our masterclass and in our online portal classes.
3. Templates to help you keep track of your quarterly income and expenses and links to tax calculators.
4. Access to expert advice from a fully qualified chartered accountant specialising in tax requirements for medical practitioners.

WHERE TO START

STEP 1

Register for your masterclass. These run several times a year. When you are ready, hop on to the following link and secure your spot:

STEP 2

Use this e-book to support you through each online course.

STEP 3

Proceed with the confidence you need to register your ABN and to get started.

To make the most out of your setting sail masterclass, we recommend that you register for the online masterclass and then work through this e-book prior to commencing in private practice. Once you have commenced, you can refer back to the relevant chapters based on the stage you are at in your journey as a new fellow.

WHY DO I NEED AN ABN

As a medical practitioner working in Australia, having an Australian Business Number (ABN) may be necessary for several reasons:

1. **Billing Purposes:** You are often required to bill Medicare for their services. Having an ABN allows you to bill Medicare directly for services provided to patients. Medicare requires healthcare providers to have an ABN to facilitate billing and ensure compliance with regulations.
2. **Taxation:** An ABN is also necessary for taxation purposes. It allows you to report your income and claim deductions related to your practice. It streamlines the process of managing your finances and ensures compliance with tax laws.
3. **Legal and Regulatory Requirements:** Some healthcare organisations or institutions may require medical practitioners to have an ABN to enter into contracts or agreements. It can also be necessary for obtaining certain professional insurances.
4. **Identification:** An ABN serves as a unique identifier. It helps in distinguishing you from others and facilitates communication with government agencies such as the ATO, insurers, and other healthcare providers. Much like a tax file number.
5. **Practice Management:** Having an ABN is often a prerequisite for setting up accounts with suppliers, ordering medical supplies, and managing other aspects of your professional career.

Overall, obtaining an ABN as a GP is essential for regulatory compliance, facilitating billing and taxation. An ABN can be obtained under a number of different structures such as a sole trader, trust or company.





SOLE TRADER

The sole trader structure is the easiest of all the structures available and is a popular choice for most new businesses.

Under this structure, the ABN is held in your own individual name and any earnings are included in your personal tax return and are taxed at your marginal tax rate along with any other income you receive in your own name.

Key characteristics of a sole trader:

Ownership: The individual is the sole owner of the business. They have full control over its operations and decision-making processes.

Liability: The sole trader is personally liable for all the debts and obligations of the business. Profit and Loss: The sole trader is entitled to all the profits generated by the business after deducting expenses. However, they also bear the full responsibility for any losses incurred by the business.

Taxation: Income generated by the business is typically treated as the sole trader's personal income for tax purposes. This income is reported on the sole trader's individual tax return, and they are responsible for paying income tax on it.

Flexibility: Operating as a sole trader offers flexibility in terms of decision-making and business operations. Sole traders can easily make changes to their business structure or operations without the need for formal procedures or approvals.

TRUST

A trust is a legal arrangement where one party (the trustee), holds assets on behalf of another party or parties (beneficiaries). The net income of a trust is then taxed in the hands of the beneficiaries (or the trustee on their behalf) based on their present entitlement to the income. In accordance with the trust deed the trustee decides which beneficiaries are entitled to the income of the trust before the end of that financial year.

Key concepts of a trust:

Trustee: The trustee is responsible for managing the assets held in the trust according to the terms of the trust agreement (trust deed) and for the benefit of the beneficiaries. The trustee has a fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of the beneficiaries and to administer the trust in accordance with the law.

Beneficiaries: Beneficiaries are the individuals or entities who are entitled to benefit from the assets held in the trust. They may receive income generated by the trust assets, have the right to use the assets, or receive distributions of the assets at a specified time or under certain conditions. They will in most cases be responsible for paying the tax on the net income generated by the trust.

Trust Agreement: The trust agreement, also known as a trust deed is a legal document that sets out the terms and conditions of the trust, including the identities of the trustee and beneficiaries, the purposes of the trust, the powers and duties of the trustee, and the distribution of trust assets. The trust agreement governs how the trust is administered and provides instructions for the trustee to follow.

Trusts can be a complex legal structures, and they are often used in conjunction with other estate planning tools to achieve specific objectives. It's important to consult with legal and financial professionals when considering the establishment of a trust to ensure that it is structured properly and meets your needs.



COMPANY

A company is a separate legal entity and is run by its directors and owned by its shareholders.

The regulatory requirements around company's are quite a bit more strict than other structures. For example, there may be tax consequences if you are using your company's money and assets for private purposes.

The profits of the company are usually taxed at 25% - 30% flat. However it should be noted, that if you need to distribute or withdraw these profits, then it can only be withdrawn via a dividend or by paying a wage. At which point, the person receiving the distribution of funds will become taxed at their marginal tax rate.

Here are some of the characteristics of a company:

Limited Liability. One of the main reasons for forming a proprietary limited company is to

limit the liability of its shareholders. This means that the personal assets of shareholders are generally protected if the company encounters financial difficulties or legal issues. Shareholders are typically only liable for the amount unpaid on their shares. However often in practice this may be different. We recommend getting legal advice if it is your main area of concern.

Ownership and Control: Pty Ltd companies can have one or more shareholders, but they cannot offer shares to the public. This means the ownership of the company is restricted to a relatively small group of people, often including the founders, investors, and possibly employees.

Legal Status: Pty Ltd companies are separate legal entities from their shareholders. This means they can enter into contracts, sue or be sued, acquire assets, and incur debts in their own right.

- ✓ Tax capped at 25% - 30%
- ✓ Limited Liability
- ✓ Ability to pass on tax credits via franked dividends
- ✓ Greater regulatory requirements
- ✓ Expensive to set-up and maintain
- ✓ Tax implications to private use of funds and assets

COMPANIES CONTINUED

Regulatory Requirements: Pty Ltd companies are subject to various regulatory requirements under Australian law, including registration with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) and compliance with the Corporations Act 2001. They must also adhere to reporting and disclosure obligations.

Corporate Structure: Pty Ltd companies typically have a corporate structure that includes directors who manage the day-to-day operations of the company and shareholders who have ownership interests in the business.

Profit Distribution: Profits of a Pty Ltd company can be distributed to shareholders through dividends, subject to legal and financial considerations and any agreements among shareholders.

A company is a common and widely used business structure in Australia and the lower tax rates make it an attractive option. However quite often this can be mid-understood. To remove the funds from a company, this would need to be paid out as a dividend to shareholders or a salary/wage. Once this is done, the tax rate becomes the tax bracket of the individual to which these funds have been declared against.



Companies can be an expensive structure to set-up and maintain every year. In addition to increased regulatory requirements there are also annual ASIC fees that need to be paid. We recommend discussing this carefully with your accountant before opting for this structure.

CHOOSING YOUR STRUCTURE

Now that we have gone through all the structures available to you, you are probably left wondering which structure is best for you?

The most common structure used by new fellows who are employed by the one practice is the sole trader structure. This is because of something called Personal Services Income or PSI for short.

WHAT IS PSI?

Personal services income (PSI) refers to income generated mainly from personal skills, efforts, or expertise. It typically arises from services provided by an individual or a personal services entity (PSE), such as a company, partnership, or trust, where the income is predominantly derived from the skills or efforts of an individual or individuals.

The concept of PSI is particularly relevant for tax purposes in Australia. The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has specific rules and guidelines regarding the treatment of PSI to prevent individuals from improperly reducing their tax liabilities by diverting their income through a company or other entities.



To prevent income splitting and tax avoidance, the ATO has rules that limit the ability of individuals to distribute PSI to family members or other entities.

These rules aim to ensure that income derived from personal services is taxed at the appropriate individual tax rates.

A company and trust structure can be considered inefficient for managing Personal Services Income (PSI) because the net income under these structures is required to be attributed back to the individual (the medical practitioner) that earned the income.

This means that there is no benefit to income splitting in a family trust or the lower company tax bracket.

This brings us back to the sole trader option being the most efficient of all the structures for most medical practitioners.



HOW DO I BECOME A SOLE TRADER

1

Apply for your Australian Business Number (ABN)

An ABN is a unique 11-digit number that identifies your business to the government and other businesses.

You can apply for an ABN for free through the Australian Business Register (ABR) website.

2

Register for Goods and Services Tax (GST) (If required)

If you expect to receive income from services (before your management fee) of \$75,000 or more, you must register for GST.

You can register for GST during the ABN application process or separately through the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

3

Set up record-keeping systems

You'll need to keep accurate records of your income and expenses for tax purposes.

This includes invoices, receipts, bank statements, and other financial documents.

ABN APPLICATION

Go to: www.abr.gov.au and click on 'Apply for an ABN' under the 'Business, Super funds & charities' Box.

1

Click on 'Apply or reapply for an ABN'. Tick the privacy statement and click 'Next'.

The following section goes through questions that will determine your eligibility for an ABN..

2

You will need to select 'Yes' to the questions asking whether you have taken steps to start your activity The nature of your activity should be 'in the form of a business'.

The next section is the application detail. This is where you will indicate whether you are setting up a new ABN or re-instating a new ABN.

3

Ensure you select Yes to 'Does the applicant have a Tax File Number. It will speed up the process of obtaining your ABN.

In this section you are required to answer questions in relation to your taxation status including your residency.

4

Residency: This is not the same as citizenship but instead refers to your tax residency status. If you are unsure as to whether you are an Australian resident for tax purposes, refer to:
<https://www.ato.gov.au/individuals-and-families/coming-to-australia-or-going-overseas/your-tax-residency#ato-Workoutyourtaxresidency>

ABN APPLICATION CONTINUED

- 5** Applicant information: Enter your personal information. This information should match what the ATO has on record for you. Entering your Tax File Number is particularly important if you want your ABN to be provided immediately.
-

- 6** Details of associates: This section should not be required as a sole trader application. It is only relevant if you have chosen another structure such as a company or trust.
-

- 7** Reason for application: This section will go through and ask you several queries in relation to the nature of the income you receive. The date that you require your ABN from and a description of the industry that you operate in.
-

- 8** Declaration: Confirm that you have answered all questions correctly and sign and date your application for submission. Once submitted, the ABN is usually provided on the screen straight away. If you don't receive your ABN straight away, it is usually because one more detail was not matched to you personally. In this situation, you will later receive your ABN via a letter in the post.
-

Now that you have your ABN, you can provide this number to your practice for the purposes of billing. The next section of this guide will cover your GST obligations.

GST

In Australia, GST stands for Goods and Services Tax. It is a broad-based tax of 10% levied on most goods, services, and other items sold or consumed domestically. Businesses registered for GST collect the tax on behalf of the government and remit it periodically.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

You must register for GST if your turnover meets or exceeds \$75,000 (before management fee). Registration is optional if your turnover is less than this threshold, but you can still register voluntarily to claim GST on your expenses.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

You can register at the same time as applying for an ABN or you can also register by logging into your MyGov account. If registering through your MyGov account, you need to have the ATO linked as a service to your MyGov ID.

GST

WHAT IS CASH VS ACCRUALS?

If you are registered for GST on a cash basis, you will report GST based on when you receive payment for your services or when you pay an expense. Accruals, is based on the date of the invoice and not when funds are received/paid.

LODGING A BAS

If you are registered for GST, you would have to lodge a BAS! In a BAS, you are required to report your income, GST on that income and GST on your expenses. In most cases, this is done on a quarterly basis.

MY INCOME DOESN'T ATTRACT GST?

Even if your income does not include GST, you still need to be registered if your turnover exceeds \$75k. In fact, it would be advantageous to do so as you would be able to claim back the GST on your management fees!

GST EXPLAINED

Goods & Services Tax (GST) is just one of the new considerations you have now that you are working in private practice.

If your billings within a 12 month period are more than or expected to be more than \$75,000 you need to be registered for GST.

Note that I specifically mention billings! Don't take off the management fee when working this out. It is your income before any expenses and before the management fee deduction.

Now if your income is less than \$75k, you can still register but it's voluntary.

WHY REGISTER IF I DON'T MEET THE THRESHOLD?

The way the GST registration works is that if you are registered then you are required to lodge a periodic Business Activity Statement (BAS). This BAS will report the total income you received, the GST on this income and the GST on any expenses you incurred (including your management fee).

You are then either required to pay the difference between the GST on your income less the GST on your expenses or you receive a tax refund if the GST on your expenses is more than the GST on your income.

In most situations, your GST on your



income is nil and so your GST on expenses will be higher and will therefore put you in a refund position.

The exception to this is that some practices don't bill the management fee separately but rather pay you a percentage of your billings directly to you with GST included on the total. This isn't a common arrangement and in most cases the management fee is itemised separately on your practice invoice.

The other exception of course is that some of your services may attract GST. E.g. report writing, certificates, non-essential medical services.

Medical practitioners' income is generally exempt from GST because their services fall under the category of "GST-free health services." This exemption applies to services provided by medical practitioners, including doctors, specialists, surgeons, dentists, and other health professionals.

REGISTERING FOR GST

01

HOW TO REGISTER

Your GST registration can be completed at the time of applying for your ABN or it can be done later down the track via your MyGov account. The registration should be done within 21 days of meeting the registration requirements.

During the registration process, you will be required to answer questions regarding your anticipated turnover, whether you wish to be registered on a cash or accruals basis and whether you would like to report on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis.

02

CASH VS ACCRUAL

As part of your GST registration process, one of the questions is whether you would like to register on a cash or an accruals basis.

Under the cash method, GST is calculated and reported to the ATO based on when the actual income is received from your practice. This means you only include GST in your business activity statement (BAS) when you are paid.

Under the accruals basis, GST is reported based on when invoices are issued.

Whilst the cash basis can be better for cashflow purposes, some find it easier to keep track of what they need to report based on the date on invoices rather than cash movements in their bank account.

In some situations, the cash basis is not an option. However these conditions don't typically relate to medical professionals operating as a sole trader.

WHAT IS A BAS?

Once you are registered for GST, you will be required to lodge a periodic Business Activity Statement (BAS). Through this BAS you will report to the ATO your total billings for the period, GST on those billings (if any) and GST on any expenses you incur.



How frequently should i lodge a BAS?

Generally speaking, when registering for GST it would be best to register on a quarterly basis.

If your turnover is more than \$20m per year then you are required to lodge on a monthly basis.

If you are registered voluntarily (turnover less than \$75k) then you can choose to be reduced on an annual basis.

When are the BAS's due?

Once you are registered for GST, you will have a BAS issued to you every quarter (if that is the lodgement cycle you chose). This BAS will be available to you through your MyGov account and you can lodge this electronically through there.



The BAS quarters and due dates if you are lodging yourself, are typically as follows:

| Quarter | Payment & lodgement date |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 July to 30 September | 28th October |
| 1 October to 31 December | 28th February |
| 1 January to 31 March | 28th April |
| 1 April to 30 June | 28th July |

HOW TO LODGE A BAS?

There are three main sections to a BAS that you will need to complete. There is 'Total Sales' (G1), 'GST on Sales' (1A) and 'GST on Purchases' (1B)

Goods and services tax (GST)

Total sales *

G1 \$.00

Does this include GST? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

GST on sales *

1A \$.00

GST on purchases *

1B \$.00



Total Sales (G1)

This figure should be the total billings for the quarter before any management fee. Your practice will either give you a quarterly summary or will give you fortnightly/monthly statements that you will need to add together to get your periodic total. The below examples indicate the figure that you would enter under G1 (highlighted in yellow).

| From | To | Statement Number | Receipts (excl GST) | GST | Receipts (incl GST) | Service Fee (incl GST) | GST on Service Fee | Amount Remitted |
|--------------|------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 01-04-2024 | 14-04-2024 | | \$4,707.20 | \$35.00 | \$4,742.20 | \$1,773.77 | \$161.25 | \$2,968.43 |
| 15-04-2024 | 28-04-2024 | | \$16,448.70 | \$0.00 | \$16,448.70 | \$6,332.75 | \$575.70 | \$10,115.95 |
| 29-04-2024 | 12-05-2024 | | \$12,784.30 | \$35.00 | \$12,819.30 | \$4,883.46 | \$443.95 | \$7,935.84 |
| 13-05-2024 | 26-05-2024 | | \$15,924.90 | \$0.00 | \$15,924.90 | \$6,131.09 | \$557.37 | \$9,793.81 |
| 27-05-2024 | 09-06-2024 | | \$14,861.41 | \$13.64 | \$14,875.05 | \$5,706.64 | \$518.79 | \$9,168.41 |
| 10-06-2024 | 23-06-2024 | | \$14,824.50 | \$0.00 | \$14,824.50 | \$5,707.43 | \$518.86 | \$9,117.07 |
| Total | | | \$79,551.01 | \$83.64 | \$79,634.65 | \$30,535.14 | \$2,775.92 | \$49,099.51 |

| Date | Description of Supply | 65% | GST | Total |
|------------|-------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| 5/02/2024 | Medical/Surgical Consultation | | | |
| to | | | | |
| 18/02/2024 | | 7,686.51 | 768.65 | 8,455.16 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | Total | 7,686.51 | 768.65 | 8,455.16 |

HOW TO LODGE A BAS?



GST on Sales (1A)

This figure is the GST component of your billings. In a lot of cases this will be \$0 because as mentioned earlier, most medical services are exempt from GST. In the first example on the prior page, some services performed by the practitioner were subject to GST and therefore there is a small GST component (\$83.64). This figure

would be entered into 1A in the BAS. In the second example, the practice does not charge for the management fee separately but rather give the practitioner one invoice for the net figure after the management fee and charges GST on the full amount. This scenario is far less common. In this situation, the whole of the income received by the practitioner is subject to GST and \$768 would be entered under 1A.

GST on Purchases (1B)

This figure is the GST component of your total expenses for the quarter. It will include the GST on the management fee and can include the GST on your work-related expenses for the quarter. In the examples on the prior page, you would enter the GST on the management fee as part of your total for 1B. In the first



example this would be \$2,776 and in the second example this is \$0. It's a good idea to keep track of the expenses you are putting through your BAS as it will make it a bit easier when you come to prepare your tax return. There are some templates included within your package that you can use to keep track of this.

Summary

Your net BAS position after entering GST on Sales and GST on Purchases will be the difference between these two amounts. In most cases you will be in a refund position because GST on Purchases is greater than GST on your Sales (billings). This is of course until you begin having to pay tax instalments. We talk about this in the next section.



TAXES & PAYG

The transition from being an employee to a contractor can come as a shock to some when it comes to paying taxes. You have previously become accustomed to someone withholding tax for you and now you are required to set aside a portion of your income to cover the eventual tax bill.

How much to set aside largely depends on your personal tax circumstances. Any income you receive as a contractor is added to any other income you have in your own name and is then taxed at whatever your marginal tax rate is.

For example, you may start working as a contractor part way through a year. In this case you may also have employee income and maybe investment income (shares, property etc) that would be added in working out your tax bracket.

Perhaps you also have a HELP debt.

In these circumstances, it can be quite tricky to work out exactly how much to

set-aside. Some take the conservative approach and only spend half of their earnings. The other way you can work this out is by using the online ATO tax calculators. A link to these calculators is provided at the end of this guide.

Once your first year is completed and you lodge your first tax return that is in a payable position due to your contractor income, the ATO then enter you into what's called a Pay As You Go or PAYG system.

What is PAYG?

The 'PAYG' ATO system is a system whereby based on your most recently lodged tax return, you are then required to pre-pay what the ATO estimate your following years income tax to be in quarterly instalments.

You are automatically placed into this system when you lodge your tax return and instalments commence from the first quarter following the lodgement of your tax return.



PAYG Continued

You can pay an instalment amount that the ATO calculate for you, or you can calculate your payment using an instalment rate the ATO gives you.

Option 1: Instalment amount

Under this method, you don't need to calculate anything. You simply pay the amount notified to you by the ATO. The ATO calculate this instalment based on your last tax return lodged.

They take your instalment income which is all the ordinary income you earned from your business and investment activities for the year (excluding GST). They apply a GDP markup to it and then they work out the tax payable on this. This tax is then averaged against however many quarters are left in the financial year post lodging your income tax return.

Your PAYG instalment amount is intended to reflect your expected tax liability for the year.

Option 2: Instalment rate

Under this option taxpayers estimate their own instalment amount based on their expected income for the year. You enter your instalment income for the period (usually a quarter) at T1 on your activity statement. It is then multiplied by the instalment rate already pre-filled by the ATO to work out your PAYG instalment payable for that quarter. This method is useful if your income is subject to fluctuation during the year.

PAYG Continued

You need to pay:

- 75% of your total yearly PAYG instalments by 28 April
- the remainder by 28 July.

Your instalment amounts will be shown on your BAS along with the GST amounts that are required to be included.

Every time you lodge a tax return, your instalment is updated.

Varying the instalments

You can vary your pay as you go (PAYG) instalments if they are too high or low. For example, if you stop working in private practice part way through the year and resume an employee position, you can vary these instalments down.

You have a choice to not vary your PAYG instalments at all. It will not change how much income tax you pay

for the year. Your instalments act as a credit towards your year end tax. After you lodge your tax return, if your instalments were:

- too high, the excess is refunded to you
- too low, you pay the shortfall.

When you vary your instalments, it is important to not underestimate your instalment amount or rate. You should have a good idea of your actual tax position before varying the instalment. When the ATO receive your tax return, they will compare your actual instalments to the total tax payable on your instalment income for the income year. If your varied instalments are less than 85% of your total tax payable, you may have to pay ATO interest charges and penalties on the difference.



If you are not sure of how much to vary an instalment, it is best to not vary your instalments at all.

Any overpaid instalments will be refunded to you after you lodge your tax return.

SUPERANNUATION

Whilst you were an employee, your employer was responsible for paying your superannuation. As a contractor in private practice, paying yourself superannuation isn't compulsory.

However you could potentially claim a tax deduction for any voluntary contributions that you make into your fund.

HOW MUCH CAN I CONTRIBUTE?

From 1 July 2024 the amount of concessional contributions that you can contribute into your superannuation fund has gone up from \$27,500 to \$30,000 per year.

A concessional contribution means that you intend to claim a tax deduction for the contribution. Concessional contributions are taxed at 15% in your superannuation fund on the way in but you are able to claim a tax deduction on the contribution at your marginal tax rate.

When working out if you are within the caps, you need to make sure you have included any employer mandated or salary sacrificed contributions made in that year. This is relevant if you were also in a salaried position during the year.



CARRY-FORWARD RULE

The "carry forward rule" allows individuals to make additional concessional contributions to their superannuation funds over and above the annual cap by utilising unused portions of their annual concessional contribution caps from the previous five years.

To be eligible, you must have a total superannuation balance of less than \$500,000 at the end of the previous financial year.

It's important to note that the rules and caps change over time, so it's recommended that you check with a financial advisor to see how it impacts your specific circumstances.

Once you have made your voluntary contribution, you need to ensure you complete and file a 'Notice of intention to claim a tax deduction' with your fund. This should be submitted to your fund and processed before you lodge your annual tax return.

TAX DEDUCTIONS

Your income and expenses from private practice are included in the same tax return as your employee income and investments. It is just entered under the business schedule section of the return instead of the section related to salary/wage deductions.

What you can claim as a tax deduction follows the same principals as what you could claim as an employee.



Management/service fee

The management fee or service fee that you pay your practice is shown as a separate expense in your business schedule. Make sure you show grossed up billings and then a separate deduction for the management or service fee.



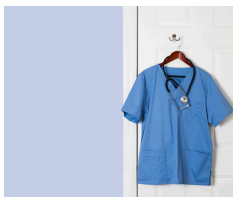
Self-education & exams

The cost of self-education or your fellowship exams may be tax deductible if you were working and earning an income in the same field of study at the time of the cost. Make sure you check that you satisfy all the criteria to claim this one!



Travel

Did you travel overnight for work or for a work related purposes such as a conference. You may be able to claim a portion of the cost of your flights, accommodation and meals if the principal purpose of the trip was work.



Uniforms/Protective clothing

Occupation specific work uniforms or protective clothing can be claimed. Generic clothing (even if only worn to work) can't be claimed. A laundry allowance can be claimed on a reasonable basis. e.g. \$1 per load if washed separately and \$0.50 if combined with regular clothing.



Professional Memberships

The cost of your college registration fees or professional body registrations can be claimed. e.g. AHPRA, AMA, RACGP etc



Mobile phone and other costs

The cost of using your mobile phone or other devices for work purposes may be claimable. You will need to substantiate your work related percentage when claiming these costs.