



OPERATING A BUSINESS FROM HOME

Can I work from home?

Some businesses are better suited to home locations than others. Where the operator travels to the client's premises and does the desk work at the home/office, this style of operation is appropriate. Working from home can be isolating and those who work from home generally do so on their own, so they are unable to rely on outside motivation. Home-based business operators are advised to join clubs or business network groups to ensure that they keep abreast of industry issues that may affect their business.

Do I need to speak to my local council before starting business?

Before you start operating your business from home, it is advisable to check with your local council to see if there are any permits that may be required. Before signing a lease or commencing a business from home it is necessary to speak to your local council to check that the area is zoned for that type of business. In some instances, special permits or licences may be required. Also it is necessary to make sure you comply with some of the regulatory requirements, such as health issues, particularly in food preparation and distribution, and also environmental protection regulations regarding air and water pollution and noise control.

What expenses can I claim for tax?

There is extensive legislation & court rulings in relation to home office expenses. Some expenses that may be deductible include:

- portion of rent;
- portion of mortgage interest, council & water rates;
- telephone/facsimile;
- computer;
- office furniture;
- cleaning;
- electricity;
- stationery; and
- reference books

Your ARW partner can advise you what expenses would be deductible for your individual circumstances.