



STUDY THOSE TAX REBATES

I have 2 school children, aged 8 & 14. Can you explain the Education Tax Refund to me? How do I qualify?

Kim, Greystanes, NSW

It was announced in the last year's Federal Budget that parents who receive the Family Tax Benefit Part A with children attending either primary or secondary school, or whose school children receive the Youth Allowance, will be able to claim the "Education Tax Refund" every financial year from 2008/09 for eligible education expenses.

It is a 50% refund on up to \$750 for each primary school child's eligible education expenses and up to \$1,500 for secondary students. That means that you could get back up to \$375 for your eight year old and up to \$750 for the 14 year old child.

Eligible expenses include the cost of buying, establishing, repairing and maintaining any of the following items:

- laptop computers and home computers
- computer-related equipment such as printers, USB flash drives, as well as disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- computer repairs
- home internet connections
- computer software for educational use
- school textbooks and other printed learning material, including prescribed textbooks, associated learning materials, study guides and stationery, and
- prescribed trade tools for secondary school trade courses.

You can't claim for school fees, uniforms, excursions, tutoring, sporting & musical equipment, building levies, library book fees, transport school photos nor tuck shop expenses.

The claim is made at item T6 in the income tax return of the spouse that receives the Family Tax Benefit. If you are not required to lodge a tax return normally, then you can claim by lodging an *Education Tax Refund Claim 2009* form which is available from the ATO.

Remember to keep your receipts as the taxman may require you to show them as proof of purchase.

For more info go to ato.gov.au/educationtaxrefund