

Education Tax Refund

The Australian Taxation Office summarises the Education Tax Refund as follows:

The Education Tax Refund (ETR) helps eligible families and independent students meet the cost of primary and secondary school education.

You can claim the ETR for education expenses you incur while your child attends primary or secondary school.

Families and approved care organisations can claim 50% of their eligible educational expenses if either of the following apply:

- they have applied for and been approved for family tax benefit (FTB) Part A for the child.
- a payment was made for the child that stopped them from receiving family tax benefit (FTB) Part A for that child.

Independent students may also be eligible to claim the ETR.

For the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, you can claim up to:

- \$794 for each eligible child in primary school - that is, a refund of \$397
- \$1,588 for each eligible child in secondary school - that is, a refund of \$794.

If your expenses exceed your refund limit for the year, any excess can go towards your following year's refund claim, as long as you are still eligible.

Please note, if you want to claim the ETR in your 2011 tax return and are not currently receiving Family Tax Benefits Part A, you must apply to the Family Assistance Office as soon as possible.

For a detailed list of eligible education expenses, you can refer to our 2011 Tax Checklist which will be forwarded to McDonald Ross clients in August 2011.

Please call McDonald Ross on 02 9262 5566 if you have any questions.

