

Media Release

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National Tax & Accountants' Association

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NTAA calls on Government and Coalition to confirm taxpayers' rights to tax refunds!

Following the overwhelming response we have received from our earlier press release highlighting concerns that the Government's new 'standard deductions' might see taxpayers losing their income tax refunds, the NTAA has called on the Government and the Coalition to make a clear and transparent statement in which they confirm they will not abolish deductions for work related expenses and taxpayers' rights to receive their annual tax refund.

Andrew Gardiner, spokesperson for the NTAA, stated that, "the introduction of standard deductions could see the Government moving towards abolishing personal tax returns and the tax refunds that many taxpayers rely on as their own self-imposed form of savings."

"This cannot be allowed to happen! Australians love receiving their annual tax refunds and no Government should be allowed to abolish taxpayers' rights to claim the expenses they incur in earning their income."

"We call on both the Government and the Coalition to make an unequivocal statement that, even if standard deductions are introduced:

- they will support taxpayer's rights to continue to claim work related expenses in excess of the standard deductions; and
- they will ensure that taxpayers will never lose the right to receive a tax refund as a result of claiming work related expenses."

"Taxpayers are entitled to hear the truth and what we want is an **iron-clad guarantee** from both parties that tax refunds are safe. What we **don't** want is for them to hide behind some cynical and ambiguous comment that will give them the "wriggle room" to one day hit taxpayers with a huge new tax and the total loss of their refunds."

Should the Government or Coalition fail to respond to our request in a clear and transparent manner then we will be left with no choice but to conclude that our concerns are well founded.

Andrew Gardiner, Spokesperson for the NTAA

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