

Media Release



National Tax & Accountants' Association Ltd

29-33 Palmerston Crescent, South Melbourne. Vic 3205.

www.ntaa.com.au

Ph: 03 9209 9999 Fax: 03 9686 4744

3 August 2010

For immediate release

\$5 billion tax grab on work related expenses – taxpayers may lose right to claim

Hard-working Australians are in danger of losing their right to claim work-related expenses, and may even lose their tax refunds, if the Gillard Labor Government wins the next election and moves to adopt a key recommendation of the Henry Report.

It will be one of the biggest tax grabs from hard-working Australians in recent history.

Every year Australians claim around \$14 billion in work related expenses, resulting in an estimated \$5 billion in tax savings.

The Government has already accepted the Henry Report's "standard deductions" and has not yet completely ruled out a damaging recommendation to limit working Australians' claiming work related expenses.

The National Tax & Accountants' Association (NTAA) believes that the Government has left the door open to claw back billions of dollars from Australian workers by eliminating many legitimate deductions.

The NTAA has written to both the Australian Government and the Coalition because it wants the Government and the Coalition to spell out their position on taxpayers' rights to claim work-related expenses.

Only the Coalition has replied with an iron-clad guarantee that it will ***"never abolish work-related deductions in order to increase the tax burden on working Australians"***.

The Government has said that it is "not Government policy" to accept the Henry Report's recommendation.

Andrew Gardiner, Spokesman for the NTAA

Tel: 03 9209 9999 Fax: 03 9686 4744

Media Release



National Tax & Accountants' Association Ltd

29-33 Palmerston Crescent, South Melbourne. Vic 3205.

www.ntaa.com.au

Ph: 03 9209 9999 Fax: 03 9686 4744

NTAA spokesperson, Andrew Gardiner said that, the Assistant Treasurer's office, when pressed on the matter, referred back to an earlier media release, which stated that:

No taxpayers will be disadvantaged by the measure as taxpayers with expenses above the standard deduction will be able to continue to claim those expenses when lodging their tax return under the existing rules.

"But this gives no commitment that they won't change the rules", says Mr. Gardiner.

"All we need from the Government is the same commitment that was offered by the Coalition. That is, hard-working Australians must be permanently entitled to claim their work-related expenses and receive their annual tax refunds.

"The NTAA is now asking Government to say that it will never remove the right to claim work related expenses."

Andrew Gardiner, Spokesman for the NTAA

Tel: 03 9209 9999 Fax: 03 9686 4744