Tax Deductions for Journalists

Selling Your Work · By Simon Townsend · 1 min read

Tax deductions for journalists

You should consider getting an ABN (Australian Business Number).

Because of GST (the Goods and Services Tax of 10%), the publications you sell to might withhold 48.5% of your fee if you do not have an ABN.

I am not qualified to offer tax advice, so you MUST talk to an accountant or tax advisor.

For an ABN registration kit call 13 2478.

As a freelance journalist you are entitled to claim deductions in the pursuit of making fees from your writing.

I NOTE AGAIN: I do NOT give tax advice.

If you'd like to know more about tax-and-journalists, you should access this website:

http://ato.gov.au/content/Individuals/22293.htm

You may be entitled to claim for all or part of:

- mobiles
- bank fees
- beepers
- calculators
- batteries
- some car expenses
- child care expenses
- computers
- computer peripherals
- computer paper, toner
- conferences
- conventional clothing
- deductible expenses
- depreciation on equipment
- driver's licence
- fares
- fines (sometimes)

- footwear
- glasses
- grooming
- home office
- internet access
- laundry
- levies
- meals
- newspapers
- pay-TV access
- professional library (dictionaries, atlases, thesauruses, encyclopaedias)
- repairs
- self education expenses
- social functions
- stationery
- technical and trade publications
- telephone expenses
- tolls
- travel expenses
- union fees
- watches and timepieces

PLEASE don't email me with tax questions.

I won't answer them as I am not professionally competent to answer.

You MUST discuss these matters with your accountant or your tax advisor.

Reprinted from The Wonderful World of Journalism. Written in the spirit of Simon Townsend's journalism craft advice. Visit simontownsendjournalist.com for the full archive.