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January 2009

## POSITIONS VACANT

Currently we are recruiting for the following positions:

- Audit Senior (Armidale)
- Accountant (Tamworth)
- Senior Accountant or Manager (Coonabarabran)
- Senior Manager (Tamworth)

So if you know of anyone that may be interested please ask them to contact the firms HR Manager, Annie McNeilly, in our Armidale office.

## Office Phone No's

Armidale  
p 6773 8400

Coonabarabran  
p 6842 0000

Gunnedah  
p 6748 5000

Tamworth  
p 6763 0100

## THE EDUCATION TAX REFUND (ETR)

The following information will help you work out if you are eligible for the ETR and when you can make a claim.

**Are You Eligible To Claim?** If you had eligible education expenses for a child's primary or secondary education during the income year 1 July 2008-30 June 2009, you can claim an education tax refund of up to 50% of those expenses if any of the following circumstances apply:

- you received family tax benefit (FTB) Part A for the child
- a payment was made for the child that stopped you from receiving FTB Part A.
- the child stopped full-time school during the year and received income over the cut-out amount, which stopped you from receiving FTB Part A.

### Payment types that can stop you from receiving FTB Part A: -

- social security pension or benefit e.g. Youth Allowance
- labour market program payment
- prescribed educational scheme – e.g. ABSTUDY living allowance

**What Education Expenses Can You Claim?** You can claim the cost of buying, establishing, repairing and maintaining any of the following items: -

- laptops and home computers,
- computer-related equipment such as printers, USB flash drives, disability computer equipment aids for students with special needs,
- home internet connections,
- computer software for educational use, including word processing, spreadsheet, database and presentation software, internet filters and antivirus software,
- school textbook and other paper based school learning material, including prescribed textbooks, associated learning materials, study guides and stationery,
- prescribed trade tools,

### You cannot claim for:

- school costs e.g. school fees, tutoring and uniform expenses,
- student attendance at school activities e.g. excursions,
- equipment e.g. musical or sporting equipment,

- levies e.g. school subject or building,
- computer games and consoles,
- library book, waiting list and membership fees,
- costs such as school photos, tuckshop expenses and donations,
- transport.

### How Much Can you Claim?

If you have full care of a child you can claim 50% of eligible expenses up to:

- \$750 for each eligible child in primary school - i.e. a refund of up to \$375
- \$1500 for each eligible child in secondary school – i.e. a refund of up to \$750

### How Do I Claim the Refund?

You can claim the refund in your 2009 individual tax return. Alternatively, if you don't have to lodge a return, from July 2009 you can use the Education Tax Refund claim 2009.

### Assistance

Should you require assistance or additional information, please contact your local Forsyths team.

Armidale p 6773 8400                      Coonabarabran p 6842 0000  
Gunnedah p 6748 5000                      Tamworth p 6763 0100

Sourced from the ATO *The Education Tax Refund Fact Sheet*.

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