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## NEWSLETTER

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### **Government Stimulus Package**

The Government has announced a one-off tax bonus payment to eligible people, with payments commencing early April 2009.

To be eligible, people need to have lodged their 2007-08 income tax return by 30 June 2009 and be an Australian resident. Some conditions apply for minors.

Payments will be made directly to your bank account or posted to you by cheque using the same details as advised in your 2008 income tax return.

Clients who paid our fees using our fee from refund service **MUST** contact the Tax Office and change their address and/or bank details to ensure that they receive the payment direct from the Tax Office.

To make changes to your address and/or bank account details you must contact the Tax Office by the middle of March on **1300 686 636**. Please have your tax file number when you ring.

Failure to update your details will lead to delays in receiving your payment and/or additional processing charges.

Full details are at <http://www.ato.gov.au>

### **Education Tax Refund**

If you're eligible for the Education Tax Refund you could get 50% back on a range of primary and secondary school education expenses.

The Education Tax Refund (ETR) is a new government initiative to help with the cost of educating primary and secondary school children. It means eligible parents, carers, legal guardians and independent students could get 50% back

on some education expenses. This includes items like computers, educational software, textbooks and stationery.

Full details are at <http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au>

## **Family Tax Benefit (FTB)** **Changes to Claiming FTB**

From 1 July 2009, claims for family tax benefit, including previous year claims, can no longer be accepted by the Tax Office.

To claim family tax benefit, you need to apply to the Family Assistance Office by either lodging:

1. online at [www.familyassist.gov.au](http://www.familyassist.gov.au), or
2. a paper claim form in person at a Centrelink customer service centre or Medicare office.

For information on the family tax benefit, you can contact the Family Assistance Office by:

1. visiting the FAO website at [www.familyassist.gov.au](http://www.familyassist.gov.au)
2. phoning the FAO on **13 61 50** between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday
3. visiting your nearest FAO – offices are located in Medicare offices and Centrelink customer service centres.
4. phoning **13 12 02** if you do not speak English well.

## **Foreign Source Income (Pensions and Annuities)**

Most foreign pensions and annuities are taxable in Australia, even if tax was withheld from your payment by the country from which the payment came. Examples of pensions and annuities that fall into this category are age and superannuation pensions paid from Austria, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

If you are not sure whether your pension or annuity is taxable in Australia further assistance is available from the Tax Office on **13 28 61**.