

Education tax refund helps with school costs

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Acting Tax Commissioner Jennie Granger today said it was important for people to remember to keep their receipts if they wish to claim the education tax refund.

"If you receive Family Tax Benefit Part A you can claim an education tax refund of up to \$375 for each primary school child's eligible education expenses and up to \$750 for secondary students," Ms Granger said.

"That means a refund of up to \$2250 for an eligible family with two primary and two secondary students.

"If you don't receive Family Tax Benefit Part A you may still be eligible if a child receives a Centrelink payment like the student allowance or ABSTUDY."

Independent students and approved care organisations looking after children attending primary and secondary school can also claim.

People can claim up to 50% back on the cost of things such as:

- laptops and home computers
- printers, software and internet connections
- textbooks and other printed learning materials, and
- stationery and trade tools for school-based trade courses.

Items that cannot be claimed include school fees, uniforms, excursions, bus and train travel, musical instruments and sports clothing and equipment.

"You will be able to make your claim from 1 July 2008 on your next tax return," Ms Granger said.

"If you don't need to lodge a tax return you can claim on a special form which will be available from the Tax Office in July."

Where parents or guardians have shared care of a child the education tax refund is worked out by the share of family tax benefit each parent or guardian receives or by the percentage of nights the child spends with them.

To find out more visit the Tax Office website at www.ato.gov.au or phone **13 28 61**.

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