

• ATO helps to work out work-related expenses

As Tax Time approaches, the ATO is encouraging people to check which work-related expenses they are entitled to claim and understand what records they need to keep. Assistant Commissioner Graham Whyte said people should claim everything they are entitled to – no more, no less.

“We know that the rules around work-related deductions can be confusing but we are here to help people understand them,” Mr Whyte said.

“We have lots of helpful, easy-to-read guidance on our website including videos and guides for common deductions in different occupations.

“Generally speaking, if you claim a deduction you need to remember the three golden rules. One, make sure you spent the money yourself and were not reimbursed. Two, make sure it’s related to your job and three, you need a record to prove it.

“One of the best ways to keep track of your deductions is to use the myDeductions tool in the ATO mobile app. It lets you record work-related deductions on the go, and uploads directly into your next tax return just like your pre-filled information.

Mr Whyte said there has been a change in the rules for calculating car expenses this year and people need to use a logbook or the cents per kilometre method to support their claims.

“It’s important to remember that you can only claim a deduction for work-related car expenses if you use your own car in the course of performing your job as an employee. Most people can’t claim the cost of travel between home and work because this travel is private,” Mr Whyte said.

The ATO will be paying extra attention to people whose deduction claims are higher than expected, in particular those claiming car expenses - including

those for transporting bulky tools, and deductions for travel, internet and mobile phone, and self-education.

For the first time ever, this year the ATO will check taxpayers' deductions in real-time as they complete their online return.

“If your claims are substantially higher than others in similar occupations, earning similar amounts of income, a message will appear, asking you to check them,” Mr Whyte said.

“This new process isn't about catching you out; it's about helping you to make sure your claims are correct. The ATO will take a closer look at any unusual deductions and contact employers to validate these claims, so it's worth getting things right at the start,” he said.

For more information on work related expenses, visit ato.gov.au/deductions

To watch videos on work related expenses, visit ato.gov.au/individuals/income-and-deductions/in-detail/deductions-for-work-related-expenses/work-related-expenses-videos/

For handy guides on deductions for specific industries and occupations, visit ato.gov.au/occupations