WILLIAMS, EDWARDS & FINDLAY

CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS

19 Commercial St, Korumburra VIC 3950
business@wef.com.au
www.wef.com.au
03 5655 2311

PRACTICE NEWS

After 15 years at WEF, Jan Hupfield is now enjoying a well-earned retirement and we take this opportunity to thank her for the long years of service. We welcome Penny Whiteside to the WEF team. Penny has previous experience in an accounting firm and we trust you will find her capable and friendly to deal with.

HANDISOFT CLIENT PORTAL

WEF now has an online portal available for secure access to documents by our clients. If you would like more information on this, please click on the below link to view a demonstration or contact us for more details.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knQ7i2pIYuY&feature=youtu.be

CHANGES TO CAR EXPENSES CLAIMED FOR TAX

In the 2015-16 Federal Budget the government announced that it will simplify the car expense deductions. Under current arrangements, there are four methods for claiming car expenses:

- Cents per kilometre – capped at 5,000 kms
- Logbook – unlimited kms
- 12% of original value
- One-third of actual expenses

To simplify the rules, from 1 July 2015 the government will abolish the one-third of actual expenses and 12% of original value method. The cents per kilometre method (with the existing 5,000km cap) and the log book method (with unlimited kms) will remain.

The cents per kilometre method will be simplified to use a standard rate of 66 cents per km rather than a rate based on the engine size of the car.

In order for us to get you the best possible tax result, we advise that you keep a log book for 12 weeks to record the business kilometres travelled. Once completed, a logbook is valid for 5 years unless your circumstances change. It is also important to keep records of all car expenses for the year including fuel, registration, insurance, repairs & lease/loan documents.

Log books are available at our office. Please contact us if you require one.

A FORECAST FOR SMOOTH SAILING

What is your most valuable asset? Is it your house? Your car? Your investment portfolio? Of course it is none of the above. Your most valuable asset is the one that makes all the others possible – ***you***.

But there is a chance that an accident or health issue could take away your ability to pay the bills. One in six men and one in four women between the ages of 35 and 65 are expected to suffer a disability that causes an absence of six months or more from work, according to a 2006 report from the Institute of Actuaries. [1] If this was to happen to you, or to somebody you cared about, what is the likelihood you could continue to meet your current financial responsibilities?

It's not just a question for those with families and/or dependents. It's just as much of a problem for singles and couples with no children when income is suddenly and unexpectedly lost. Mortgages and/or rent still have to be paid. Medical bills have to be met and general cost of living continues as it always did.

Income protection insurance can cover up to 75% of your regular weekly pay packet and sometimes up to 100%, in the event of you being unable to work as a result of serious illness or injury. Policies usually offer a monthly benefit during the time out of work, others also offer the choice of a tax-free lump sum payment in certain circumstances. In most cases premiums are tax deductible.

In every case, if you have an unexpected break from the workforce, it can mean the difference between the terrible stress of financial hardship and having the ability to concentrate on recovery.

Jesse Last, Authorised Representative of Count Wealth Accountants, is pleased to offer all our existing or new clients a free initial consultation to discuss how financial advice can assist with meeting your goals no matter what stage of the life cycle you are in.

If you have any enquiries regarding the above article or would like to arrange a time for your free initial consultation, please contact Jesse Last at our office.

[1] Institute of Actuaries of Australia. Table IAD 89-93 – white collar males and females, December 2006

Tax agent 24653503

Williams, Edwards & Findlay is a CPA Practice

OCTOBER 2015