

BIZTAX ALERT

Autumn 2014

Risk and Reward

Superannuation: decisions, decisions

If you have (or had) funds in foreign superannuation schemes, let us know. Recent changes to legislation and further impending changes may affect you.

I transferred my Australian super to KiwiSaver. Is it taxed here?

Transfers from complying superannuation funds in Australia into KiwiSaver won't be taxed in New Zealand on transfer. However, future earnings on these transfer funds will be taxed as normal KiwiSaver investments.

This isn't the case with transfers from other countries - there are New Zealand tax implications on transfers in these cases. However, under the new rules, if you transfer your non-Australian foreign superannuation into KiwiSaver after 1 April 2014, you will be allowed to make a withdrawal from KiwiSaver to pay your tax bill.

I withdrew (or transferred) funds from my foreign super last year. What are the tax implications in New Zealand?

If you withdrew or transferred funds any time between 1 January 2000 and 31 March 2014, and have not previously accounted for New Zealand tax on these funds, you will be able to meet your tax obligations by paying tax on 15% of the amount transferred or withdrawn. The remaining 85% of that sum will not attract income tax. However, it has to be shown in the tax return for either the 2013-14 or 2014-15 income years.

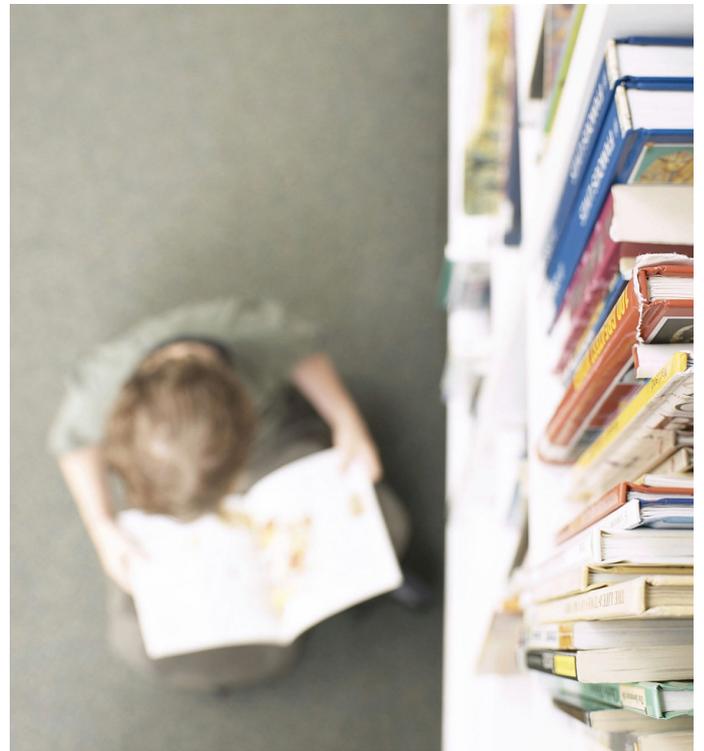
For a limited period of time only, you can choose to calculate your tax liability using this concessionary 15% rate option without penalties or interest, or under existing law (which may involve imposition of penalties and interest). Talk to us to work through the options that are best for your situation.

I'm confused. I've been declaring my foreign super under the FIF rules. What happens now?

The current foreign investment fund rules will no longer apply to foreign superannuation schemes from the proposed date of 1 April 2014. However, if you previously declared your foreign superannuation and used the foreign investment fund (FIF) income rules prior to 20 May 2013, you may choose to keep using them in relation to your foreign superannuation interest after 1 April 2014 under the 'grandparenting' provisions.

Anything else?

Don't forget also, superannuation is counted as adjusted taxable income when calculating income for child support, family income for Working for Families tax credits, and parental income for student allowances.



Disclaimer:

This publication has been carefully prepared, but it has been written in general terms only. The publication should not be relied upon to provide specific information without also obtaining appropriate professional advice after detailed examination of your particular situation.

Tax Talk

and the good news is... ACC

Workers and employers will pay \$387 million less in ACC levies in 2014/15 (subject to the regulation being passed). The cuts affect the Earners Account (paid by workers) and the Work Account (paid by employers).

	Work Account Average levy (per \$100 of liable earnings, ex GST)	Earners' Account levy (per \$100 of liable earnings, ex GST)
2014/15	\$0.95	\$1.26
2013/14	\$1.15	\$1.48

The Health and Safety in Employment (HSE) Levy is changing to a flat rate of \$0.08 per \$100 liable earnings. Look for more news on this later in the year.

Motor Vehicle Account levies, incorporated into car registration and petrol prices, will remain the same. The Government expects to introduce cuts for motor vehicle owners from 1 July 2015.

In other news, there have been some minor changes to classification unit codes, affecting second-hand booksellers and people working in digital effects industries.

Are you managing ACC on your own? We could help you with that, with our ACC Administration and Advisory service. Talk to us about how the service might save you time and money.

eXPired technology?

Taking your business online? Look at whether your current setup will let you keep up with the change.

For instance, if you're still running XP, be aware that Microsoft will no longer support Windows XP and Office 2003 from this year.

From April, if you use Windows XP, you won't receive technical support for it. This means no new security updates, or non-security hotfixes. No support and no online technical content updates.

Until July 14 2015, Microsoft will continue to offer Windows XP users its malware scrubbing program (MSRT). However, your system will become more vulnerable to security risks and viruses.

Over time you'll encounter more applications and devices which are incompatible as software and hardware manufacturers upgrade their products.

But you're already onto this ... right?



info@biztax.co.nz phone: 07 834 0556

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success. Henry Ford

Mixed use asset rules now apply to boats and planes

We've talked a lot about mixed use assets over the last six months so we'll keep it short. From 1 April 2014 the mixed use assets rules apply to boats and aircraft. This means you now need to keep similar records as for holiday homes.

If you use the asset for private use and for earning income, if it's also unused for 62 days, if it had a cost or market value of \$50,000 or more when you bought it, you need to record:

- The amount of time it was used and who used it (number of days, flying or cruising hours)
- The amounts received
- Expenses related to making it available for hire as well as expenses in generally maintaining it

If you make a loss and if your gross income from the asset is less than 2% of its value, you may not be able to claim the loss straightaway. Instead, you'll have to 'quarantine' the excess expenditure and carry it forward to a future tax year to offset against future profits from the asset.

GST input tax deductions are calculated in a similar way to how you calculate expenses allowed as a deduction. If you sell the asset partway through the year, the calculations relating to income, expenditure, apportionment and quarantining can change.

If you'd like a rundown on how this applies in your case, or some tips on easy ways to keep track of it all, please contact us.

Innovation is the ability to convert ideas into invoices. L. Duncan