

## Happy New Year!

We doubt we are not alone in being happy to say goodbye to 2020. May 2021 be remembered for a whole lot of happy and positive reasons for all of us. May our new norms inspire us, bring us closer together, and remind us of what is truly important to us. Please stay healthy and safe.

## The Office, COVID Turnaround Times etc

As most of you are aware, 2020 was a difficult year and Tax Accountants seem to have worn the brunt of most of it. From Bushfire relief, Hailstorms and refinancing replacement cars, we didn't get a break before launching into JobKeeper and supporting our business clients through COVID – whilst suddenly working from home.

We are still behind on our 2019 lodgements (like many other accountants) and the ATO have been very supportive of the extensions that we have needed. We are currently working towards a deadline of 28<sup>th</sup> February for the remainder and we should be finished with all of them by then. We do ask that you please bear with us a little bit longer in catching up. We are working overtime, sometimes 7 days a week, to catch up again. An unexpected but pleasant surprise for us was how quickly you all embraced our Client Portal and COVID No-Contact drop-offs. So many of you realised you didn't need an appointment to get your tax done and have sent your information via drop off, email, mail in, or uploaded to our Client Portal. As a consequence, we have **twice** as many returns in here for the same time last year. Thank you for embracing this new way of working. What we are finding works best is to receive your information, process what we have, and then call you with any queries. This is actually

## Client Newsletter – January 2021

A newsletter for all of our clients working more efficiently than having an initial appointment. Of course, we are open and taking appointments, so you are welcome to book one anytime you want.

We can do face-to-face, telephone, or Zoom meetings. All of these options are working really well. What works best for you?

The questionnaire to help with preparing your return can be found at

<https://www.kdcaccounting.com.au/free-resources-and-links/forms/> . We can also email you a copy or snail mail you a printed copy. Please don't feel compelled to complete the questionnaire, many people have used it merely as a reference resource of what to give us and details of the changes from last year.

## HomeBuilder & the housing industry

The HomeBuilder scheme provides a tax-free grant to those building a new home or renovating. The Assistant Treasurer has announced an extension of the HomeBuilder scheme to 31 March 2021. For all new build contracts signed before 31<sup>st</sup> March. There are incentives available of \$15,000.

## Claiming Home Office Expenses

If you are working from home and have set up a home office for this purpose, you can claim a deduction for your expenses based on the 80 cents per hour **short cut** method, the 52 cents **per hour method** (which excludes phone, internet, or the decline in value of equipment which are all claimed separately), or **the actual method**. Our tax return questionnaire outlines this in more detail. You can download a copy from

<https://www.kdcaccounting.com.au/free-resources-and-links/forms/>

“You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where  
you are and change the ending”

C S Lewis

## Meet the team

As in most businesses, team members come and go. The Tax Accounting industry has seen some significant changes this year with quite a few people opting out of the industry. Here at KDC Accounting, we have had some turnover too. The good news is that our work paper reference system means that we have a good handle on your affairs from year to year. But it is important to know who is looking after you. Kerri still has a hands-on approach with every client and their work. No work leaves the office without her review and approval. Would you like to meet the team? Their photos and personal details can be found at: <https://www.kdcaccounting.com.au/meet-the-team/>

The team has been undertaking a leadership training program this week and next and we are all excited for 2021! Kerri is constantly amazed at the resilience of this team and their amazing attitude to looking after our clients. Reach out and say hi!

## Claiming Super

Did you know that you can claim a deduction for superannuation – even if your employer has paid super for you? You have to lodge a Notice of Intent Form and receive acknowledgement back from your super fund before we can lodge your return.

Also, if you didn’t claim all of your super in an earlier year, you may be able to contribute more in the following years.

Both of these concepts have complicated rules but can be incredibly valuable options to assist in cash flow and contribute significantly to your retirement income. Would you like to book a 15 minute phone catch up with Kerri to discuss this further.? You can book online here:

<https://www.kdcaccounting.com.au/kerri/>

## Difficulty with our stairs?

We understand that our stairs are difficult for some people. We can meet you in a nearby coffee shop, or at your home. We can also run down the stairs and collect documents if you us call when you get here.

## Feedback when finalising your tax return

When we prepare your return, we often have some feedback to tell you – something we couldn’t claim, why your refund or liability differs to last year’s, or something you should consider for future years.

We include this feedback as part of the return that we upload into the client portal. Please take the time to read this, it can often answer your questions or provide some very valuable advice that can save you money in the future. We still encourage you to call if you have any questions, but we do try to anticipate these questions with our feedback documentation.

## ATO Requires more info

Just a reminder that the ATO has significantly stepped up their “Granular Data” expectations for additional information requirements in your tax return. This does mean we often have to contact you for additional information not required in the past.

Sometimes, it may feel like we are asking for this information because we don’t trust you. This is definitely not the case and is a result of the ATO increased expectation.

## Managing ATO Deadlines

Did you know that most tax returns are not due until 15<sup>th</sup> May? Every year! One of our responsibilities is to manage these deadlines for you.

We will follow up with you when we need information and if you provide your information when requested, we can meet all deadlines.

If for some reason, we miss a deadline, we wear the consequences, not you. This means we will pay any fines that are our fault.

Whilst we work to the ATO deadlines, you may have other deadlines that we are not aware of. If that is the case, please get in touch and let us know about your deadlines.

**Don’t give up on something because of the time it will take – the time is going to pass anyway.**