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Low-cost pathway for tax disputes

One of the important objectives of the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman is to help find low-cost pathways for small businesses to resolve disputes.

Our Tax Concierge Service allows unrepresented small and family businesses that object to an assessment from the Australian Taxation Office to get an independent reality check of the viability of their case, before time and money is spent.

And if the case has got some legs, we'll assist its onboarding into the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and help navigate that process.

We make sure there's a clear focus on what the issues of the dispute are and that the evidence is presented well.

We ask the small business to put a \$100 payment on the table, as a bit of skin in the game, and we fund the rest of a one-hour consultation with an experienced small business tax lawyer to see if you've really got a case.

And there's ongoing support and assistance until a decision is reached, for example, help with applications and compiling relevant documents.

The Tax Concierge Service not only helps with tax uncertainty but seeks to address the power imbalance.

It also supports the efficient use of the AAT by guiding small businesses through the processes, particularly when they are making and presenting their own case during contested or tax administration/ tax law matters.

Just to emphasise, we help navigate the process, we cannot and do not give tax or legal advice.

Any small or family business can contact us if they want to object to a tax assessment.

More information about the [Tax Concierge Service](#).



Australian Government
Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

Opening soon

Energy efficiency grants
valued up to \$25,000 for
small to medium businesses

[Learn more](#)



dceew
gov.au

Energy efficiency grants

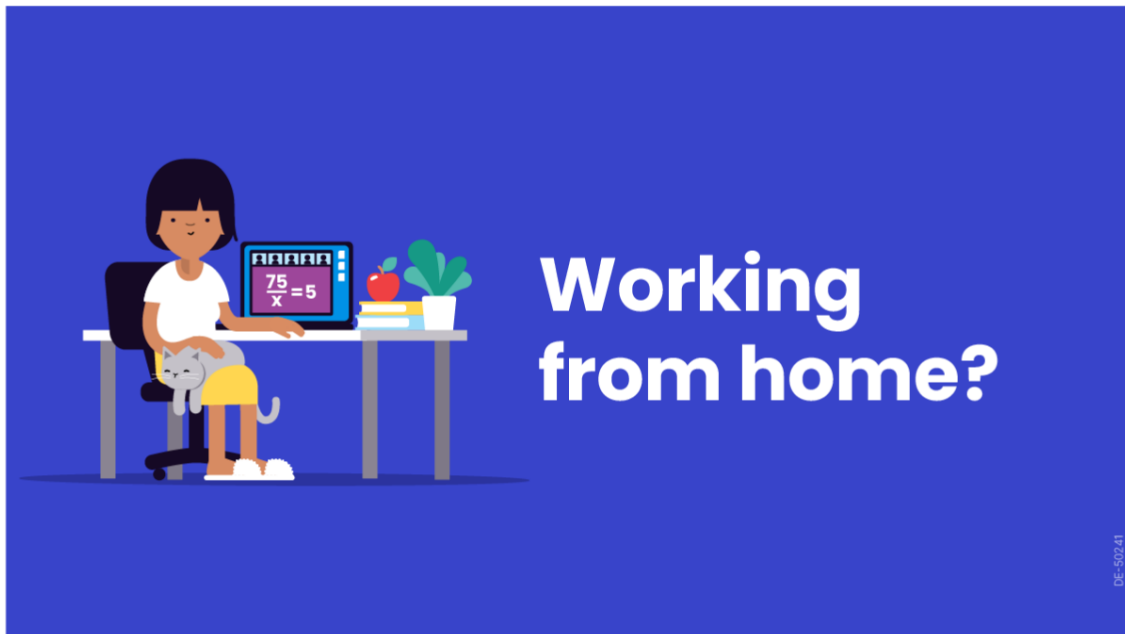
The Australian Government is providing grants worth between \$10,000 and \$25,000 to small and medium businesses to upgrade or replace inefficient equipment to improve their energy efficiency and reduce power use and bills.

The first round of energy efficiency grant applications opens on 6 March and will close on 19 April, or earlier if the \$16 million available in this round is exhausted. The grants are available in all industry sectors and can be used for energy efficiency measures such as energy monitoring systems or upgrades to existing equipment to

improve energy efficiency.

The government advises grants will be distributed between states and territories based on the distribution of small and medium sized businesses nationally. It expects a high level of interest and grants will be awarded to eligible applicants on a first come, first served basis.

[Learn more](#)



Working from home deductions

The Australian Taxation Office has updated advice about working from home deductions. Taxpayers making a claim can use either the “actual cost” or the “fixed rate” method. The short cut method is no longer available.

The fixed rate method has changed for the 2022-23 financial year from 52 cents to 67 cents an hour. Whichever method you choose, you must keep records.

[Learn more](#)



From 6 March the Fair Work Act will explicitly prohibit sexual harassment in connection with work, which includes the workplace.

It's one of several new laws. The Fair Work Ombudsman is running a [webinar](#) on 8 March to go through the recent and upcoming Fair Work Act changes.

Fair Work Ombudsman



Would you leave the company credit card lying around? Or perhaps the access key to the workspace?

International Women's Day



As we celebrate International Women's Day, it's pleasing to see the number of new small businesses being created by women continues to grow. The ABS Census found that the number of female small business owners increased by 24% between 2006 and 2021, compared to only 7% of male small business owners over the same period. Women represented 35% of small business owners in 2021. Yet these woman-led and women-owned businesses often face greater hurdles to success.

Those with caring responsibilities seek support so they can invest more in their business without being stereotyped as being unable to run a business due to caring responsibilities or their gender.

They deserve equal visibility and opportunities as those for male-led businesses and access to funding and grants, training and mentoring supports.

IWD for Business

Whether it's your company device or your personal device, its security is just as important as any other resource.

Head to our [website](#) for tips on the simple steps a small and family business can take to help avoid or reduce the impact of cyber security incidents.

[Learn more about personal security](#)



Does your business have a trade mark?

The most common types of trade marks are brand names, logos or distinctive phrases. Trade marks are not the same as business names, they can be registered to stop others from using them and misrepresenting your business.

IP Australia has launched TM Checker, a pilot tool that makes it easier for businesses to check trade mark availability in Australia. It will give you



Being a small and family business owner can be rewarding, but it is not without challenges.

Financial hardship can be especially challenging and one of the biggest sources of anxiety. We have resources to help on our [website](#).

And check out a short video with some helpful suggestions below. Warning – it may contain singing by me!

[Watch the Ombudsman's message](#)

an idea if there are similar trade marks to your brand or name and it's a simple process to complete the application to register your trade mark from there.

IP Australia has a range of resources to help you understand trade marks, visit the website below for more information.

[Visit IP Australia to learn more](#)



Do you have an idea for a business but don't know where to start? Or are you already running your own business and need some help?

Self-Employment Assistance helps people turn their business idea into reality and can also help existing small business owners.

[Visit Workforce Australia](#)

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