October 2026 Newsletter – Tax, Business & Investing

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Don't let tax catch you out: 5 things to keep in mind

Tax is one of those things that can quietly sit in the background for most of the year — until suddenly it is time to lodge a return, prepare financial statements or deal with an unexpected tax bill.

Whether you are an employee, investor, property owner or business operator, tax can become complicated quickly. Rules change, circumstances evolve and opportunities can easily be missed if you only think about tax once a year.

Here are five important things people often forget about tax — and why having an accountant by your side can make such a difference.

1. **Tax Planning should happen before tax time**

   One of the biggest misconceptions is that tax planning starts when your tax return is being prepared. By then, many opportunities may have already passed.

   Good tax planning is generally an ongoing process. Decisions about business expenses, investments, superannuation contributions, asset purchases, capital gains and cash flow can potentially affect your tax position.

   Talking with your accountant throughout the year gives you the opportunity to understand the possible tax implications of important decisions before you make them.

2. **Keeping good records really matters**

   Receipts, invoices, investment statements, vehicle records and business expenses can be easy to overlook during a busy year.

   However, good record keeping is one of the foundations of effective tax management.

   Without the appropriate records, you may find it difficult to substantiate deductions or accurately calculate income, expenses and capital gains.

   Rather than scrambling to find information at the end of the financial year, consider creating a simple system for storing records as you go.

   Your accountant can also help you understand which records you should retain and how long they may need to be kept.

3. **Your circumstances can change your tax position**

   Tax is rarely a set-and-forget exercise.

   Changing jobs, starting a business, purchasing an investment property, selling shares, receiving an inheritance, retiring or making significant superannuation contributions can all potentially influence your financial and tax position.

   Even something that appears relatively straightforward can have consequences you may not have considered.

   This is where professional advice becomes particularly valuable. Your accountant can look at the broader picture rather than simply focusing on one transaction.

4. **A deduction doesn't mean something is free**

   It is easy to hear the words "tax deductible" and assume an expense effectively costs nothing.

   That is not how deductions generally work.

A legitimate deduction may reduce your taxable income, but you have still spent the money in the first place.

Making unnecessary purchases purely to obtain a tax deduction can therefore be poor financial management.

Your accountant can help you separate sensible business or investment decisions from spending that provides little genuine financial benefit.

The goal should usually be improving your overall financial position — not simply trying to reduce tax at any cost.

5. **Tax decisions can affect your broader financial strategy**

   Tax does not exist in isolation.

   Decisions involving property, investments, superannuation, business structures, retirement planning and estate planning can often have tax implications.

   For example, selling an investment could potentially create a capital gain. Changing a business structure may affect taxation and asset protection considerations. Making additional superannuation contributions may also involve contribution limits and eligibility requirements.

   This is why accountants often work alongside financial advisers, lawyers and other professionals.

   When your advisers communicate and understand your broader objectives, you can make more informed decisions.

Why having an accountant matters

Most importantly, professional advice can provide confidence that your decisions are being made with a clearer understanding of the potential consequences.

Tax rules can be complex and they can change over time. What works for one person or business may be completely inappropriate for another.

Rather than relying on assumptions, social media tips or something that worked for a friend, speak with a qualified accountant who understands your individual circumstances.

Because when it comes to tax, good advice is not simply about paying less tax — it is about making better financial decisions.

(Feedsy Exclusive)



BAS matters: Why being organised and on time is good for business

Running a business comes with plenty of competing priorities. Customers, staff, suppliers, cash flow and growth can quickly take centre stage, while administration gets pushed further down the list.

But one obligation that deserves consistent attention is your **Business Activity Statement (BAS)**.

For many Australian businesses, BAS is an important part of staying on top of GST, PAYG withholding and other tax obligations. More importantly, keeping your BAS accurate and lodged on time can be a good indicator of the overall financial health and organisation of your business.

Leaving it until the last minute can create unnecessary stress, cash flow pressure and the risk of mistakes. With the support of a good bookkeeper and accountant, BAS can become part of a well-managed financial routine rather than a quarterly headache.

Here are seven tips to help keep your BAS under control.

1. **Don’t treat BAS Money as Business Profit**

   One of the most important disciplines is remembering that GST collected from customers is generally not money you should simply consider available to spend.

   Consider regularly setting aside amounts for GST and other tax obligations in a separate bank account. This can help reduce the shock of discovering a large amount is payable when BAS time arrives.

2. **Keep Your Records Up to Date**

   Accurate bookkeeping throughout the month or quarter makes BAS preparation significantly easier.

   Invoices, receipts, supplier payments, payroll information and business expenses should be recorded consistently. Waiting until the BAS deadline to sort through months of transactions increases the likelihood of missing information or making errors.

3. **Know Your Deadlines**

   BAS lodgement dates should be treated like any other important business deadline.

Put them in your calendar and give yourself enough time before the due date to review the figures, clarify questions and arrange payment.

Being prepared early can also give you greater visibility over upcoming cash flow requirements.

4. **Reconcile Your Accounts Regularly**

   Bank and credit card reconciliations help ensure your accounting records reflect what has actually happened in your business.

   Regular reconciliation can identify duplicate transactions, missing expenses, incorrect allocations or payments that have not been properly recorded.

   A small mistake repeated over several months can become a much bigger problem later.

5. **Use Your BAS as Business Health Check**

   Don't view BAS purely as a compliance exercise.

   The information behind your BAS can tell an important story about your business. Are sales increasing? Are expenses climbing? Is payroll becoming a larger proportion of revenue? Is cash flow getting tighter?

   Reviewing these trends with your accountant can help turn compliance information into useful business insights.

6. **Don't Ignore Cash Flow Problems**

   If you know you may have difficulty meeting a BAS obligation, don't simply ignore it and hope the problem disappears.

   Speak with your accountant early. Understanding the size of the liability and your available options is far better than discovering the problem after a deadline has passed.

   Early conversations also allow you to look at the underlying cause. A tax payment problem may actually highlight pricing, profitability, debtor collection or broader cash flow issues.

7. **Build the Right Financial Team**

   Perhaps the most valuable tip is recognising that you don't have to manage everything yourself.

   A **bookkeeper** can help keep your day-to-day financial records accurate, organised and current. Your **accountant** can provide broader tax, compliance and business advice while helping you understand what the numbers mean.

   When your bookkeeper, accountant and business owner work together, there should be fewer surprises and better information available when important decisions need to be made.

Make BAS Part of Good Business Management

Staying on top of BAS is about much more than meeting a tax deadline. It is about building good financial habits, maintaining accurate records and understanding where your business stands.

Being organised and lodging on time can reduce stress, improve cash flow planning and give you greater confidence in your financial position.

Most importantly, quality professional support can make all the difference.

Don't wait until BAS is due to start thinking about your numbers. Work with your bookkeeper and accountant throughout the year so your obligations are managed, your records stay current and you have the financial information you need to keep moving your business forward.

(Feedsy Exclusive)



Investing with confidence: Understanding the fundamentals and the value of advice

Investing can be one of the most effective ways to build long-term wealth, create financial security and work towards important life goals. But successful investing is rarely about chasing the next big opportunity or trying to predict what markets will do next.

It starts with understanding the fundamentals, having a clear strategy and making decisions that reflect your personal circumstances.

For many people, this is where the value of professional financial advice becomes particularly important. A Financial Adviser can help you understand not only where your money is invested, but why it is invested that way and how your strategy should evolve as your life changes.

Start with your goals

Before choosing an investment, it is important to understand what you are investing for.

Are you building wealth for retirement? Saving for a future property? Creating an income stream? Funding your children's education? Or simply wanting your savings to work harder over the long term?

Different goals may require very different investment strategies.

A Financial Adviser can help turn broad ambitions into measurable financial objectives and develop an investment strategy designed around your timeframe, financial position and priorities.

Understand risk and return

Every investment involves some level of risk.

Generally, investments offering the potential for higher long-term returns will also experience greater fluctuations in value along the way.

Shares, for example, can provide strong long-term growth potential but may experience significant short-

term volatility. Cash and term deposits may provide greater stability, but their long-term growth potential is generally lower.

Understanding how much risk you are financially and emotionally comfortable taking is fundamental to building an investment portfolio you can remain committed to.

Diversification matters

One of the most important principles of investing is diversification.

Rather than relying heavily on one company, industry, asset class or geographic market, diversification spreads your investments across different areas.

A diversified portfolio may include Australian and international shares, property, fixed interest, cash and other investments.

Diversification cannot eliminate investment risk, but it can help reduce the impact that poor performance in one area has on your overall portfolio.

Time in the market is important

Markets rise and fall. Periods of uncertainty are a normal part of investing.

One of the biggest challenges investors face is resisting the temptation to make emotional decisions when markets become volatile.

Selling investments after markets have fallen can potentially lock in losses, while waiting for the "perfect" time to invest may mean missing periods of market recovery.

A long-term investment strategy can help investors remain focused on their objectives rather than reacting to short-term market movements.

The power of compounding

Compounding occurs when investment returns begin generating returns of their own.

Over long periods, this can make a significant difference to wealth accumulation.

Regular investing can also be powerful. Contributing smaller amounts consistently over many years may help build substantial wealth without requiring a large initial investment.

The key is often consistency rather than perfection.

Your investment strategy should change with you

An investment strategy should never be viewed as something you establish once and then forget.

Your income may change. You may buy a home, start a business, raise a family, receive an inheritance or begin preparing for retirement.

Investment markets, tax rules, superannuation legislation and economic conditions can also change.

This is why an ongoing relationship with a Financial Adviser can be so valuable.

Regular reviews allow your adviser to assess whether your investments remain appropriate, rebalance your portfolio where necessary and adjust your strategy as your circumstances evolve.

Advice can provide perspective

Perhaps one of the greatest benefits of financial advice is having someone alongside you when markets become uncertain or life changes unexpectedly.

A good Financial Adviser provides more than investment recommendations. They can provide perspective, discipline, education and accountability.

Understanding the fundamentals of investing is important, but applying those fundamentals consistently over decades is where the real challenge often lies.

The right investment strategy should give you confidence that your money is working towards the things that matter most to you.

And with quality financial advice and an ongoing adviser relationship, you can continue making informed decisions as your wealth, circumstances and ambitions evolve.

(Feedsy Exclusive)

If these articles have inspired you to think about your unique situation and, more importantly, what you and your family are going through right now, please get in touch with our office.

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