

Lao Pollock & Co

Certified Practising Accountants
Registered Tax Agents



LAO POLLOCK & CO

Suite 1, Level 3, 100 George Street
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150
PO BOX 3336 PARRAMATTA
NSW 2124

Telephone: 96339220
www.laopollock.com.au

OUR SERVICES:
Specialist Taxation Advice
and Compliance

Accounting
Administration
Information Management

Lao Pollock & Co is a CPA
Practice.

Registered Tax Agent

Our firm specialises in the provision of quality taxation compliance and advice services to individuals and small business. Most of our clients engage our firm in compliance work (preparation of tax returns), and we also take instruction from clients and professionals (eg. solicitors, trustees and executors) in providing opinion relating to more complex tax matters.

We also engage in accounting and administration services for clients.

TAX MATTERS NEWSLETTER

Thank you for taking the time to read our Tax Practice Newsletter.

Please feel free to hand our Newsletter to a friend, relative or associate.

"HOT TOPIC" -

Tax time 2015 & the ATO Portal!

If you are currently in the later stage of preparing your paperwork to present to us or another tax agent in order to have your tax return prepared, the following points may assist you for tax time 2015.

-ATO Portal

The Tax Office provides Tax Agents with access to their clients' income details as supplied by financial institutions via what is referred to as the "ATO Portal". Whilst this information is not 100% accurate, your tax agent can use this information as a basis of cross checking data or as the source of information if a client has misplaced their record. **As the tax office regularly reminds us however, income disclosure always remains the responsibility of the taxpayer.**

The following items are some important reminders or changes for Tax Time 2015.

-Medical expense offset, phased out:

Out of pocket medical expenses can only be claimed, if you received an offset in 2014 or if you have aged care costs or disability expenses.

- Disposal of Assets:

Review your investment holdings to ensure any sales are reflected in your tax return (for assets purchased since the introduction of capital gain tax on 19/9/1985).

-Late Lodgements for 30 June 2015:

For INDIVIDUALS, normal due date was 31.10.2015, but extended up to 15.5.2016 if lodged via a tax agent. Even if you are late, or previously self- lodged and overdue for 2015, the ATO will consider case by case situations.

DID YOU KNOW?

IS NEGATIVE GEARING A POSITIVE?

Recent Government and Opposition attention has centred on changing aspects of negative gearing. A firm direction may be set, once Australia comes out of election mode after 2 July 2016, however speculation mostly centres around the "massive tax benefits and rorts" enjoyed by individuals taking advantage of the tax system-with a focus on property!

A few brief points can be made. Firstly, the term "gearing" from an investment or business view broadly refers to the transaction of using borrowed funds to purchase an asset or fund an operation that is income producing. Gearing therefore is not restricted to property purchases, but can relate to share and managed fund investments and business where the interest cost incurred in borrowing and other applicable expenses are offset against income received. If expenses exceed the income received, "negative gearing" has occurred and the amount may be applied against assessable income with a resultant reduction to tax payable. Would future restrictions also flow to business or share investors?

DID YOU KNOW, whilst a tax benefit may apply in the above scenario, the term "NEGATIVE" means a TAX LOSS has occurred. This means a POSITIVE must come from somewhere to make the exercise worthwhile, so seek tax advice!

PRACTICE MATTERS CLIENT REFERRALS

Please do not hesitate in mentioning either Catherine or Carl to your friends if they are seeking assistance with a tax matter.

PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT

Please call Catherine Pollock or Carl Lao on 9633 9220 for assistance with your tax matter.

Disclaimer

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.
The content of this newsletter is general tax advice only and not specific personal advice.