



Amanda Rishworth MP

Member for Kingston

MEDIA RELEASE

AMANDA RISHWORTH REMINDS PARENTS TO KEEP RECEIPTS FOR EDUCATION TAX REFUND

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Member for Kingston has today reminded parents of school children in Southern Adelaide to keep their receipts for education expenses as they prepare for the new school year.

Ms Rishworth said the back-to-school period was often a really expensive one coming off the back of Christmas and the holidays, and that parents should make most of the benefits available under the Rudd Government's \$4.4 billion Education Tax Refund.

"Every bit counts when you're faced with the prospect of all those expenses associated with getting the kids ready to go for the new school year," Ms Rishworth said.

"We understand that, and it's even more the case in the midst of the global financial crisis and the downturn in the world economy.

"The refunds parents can accumulate at this time of year will no doubt come in really handy come the end of the 2008-09 financial year, just six months away.

"But to make the most of it parents in Southern Adelaide have to be organised and keep their receipts in a safe place."

Ms Rishworth said the Rudd Government had announced the Education Tax Refund in the last election campaign and was honouring its commitment to the Australian people.

"It will provide parents with much-needed help for education expenses, with refunds of up to \$375 per primary school student and \$750 per secondary school student.

"Parents bringing up the next generation of Australians are doing one of the most important jobs in Australia and they deserve a helping hand.

"It's also a central part of the Rudd Government's Education Revolution aimed at giving kids in Southern Adelaide, and all over Australia, the best possible start in life."

RUDD GOVERNMENT'S EDUCATION TAX REFUND

How much can you claim?

By keeping their receipts, eligible families will be able to claim a 50 per cent refund every year for key education expenses up to:

- \$750 for each child undertaking primary studies (maximum refund of \$375 per child, per year); and
- \$1,500 for each child undertaking secondary studies (maximum refund of \$750 per child, per year).

For example, Sarah and Michael have two children, Petra, who is in secondary school and Jack, now in grade three. Through the Education Tax Refund, Sarah and Michael are able to claim 50 per cent of the cost of a \$1,500 laptop computer they bought for Petra, a refund of \$750.

They will also be able to claim Jack's education software and school textbooks up to the value of \$750, receiving a refund of up to \$375.

Where a family has educational costs in excess of the refund limit, these costs can be carried over to the next financial year.

What items are covered?

Eligible expenses for the Education Tax Refund include:

- laptops;
- home computers and associated costs;
- home internet connections;
- printers;
- education software;
- trade tools for use at school;
- school text books; and
- stationery.

Who is eligible?

Parents entitled to Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A for children in primary or secondary school for the relevant financial year are eligible for the Education Tax Refund.

Parents are also eligible if they have children in primary or secondary school who would be eligible children for FTB Part A purposes, but for the fact that the child receives certain payments or allowances, for example:

- Youth Allowance;
- Disability Support Pension; and
- ABSTUDY Living Allowance.

How do you claim the Education Tax Refund?

Parents will then be able to claim 50 per cent of these expenses through their tax return at the end of the financial year. For those who are not required to complete an income tax return, a separate form will be available from the Australian Taxation Office.