

Understanding your income statement¹

A guide to reading your income statement for salary packaging employees of 'PBI30²' status organisations.³

> Salary and wages

You are taxed on your salary and wages. Your taxable salary and wage figure is included on your annual income statement¹ and excludes the salary packaging payments. Hence, your salary packaging money is never subject to income tax. For example, if you earn \$58,550 and salary package \$15,900 for expenses and \$2,650 for meals (or accommodation), your taxable salary figure for tax purposes is only \$40,000 (\$58,550 – \$15,900 – \$2,650).

> Reporting salary packaging

Your salary packaging amount is shown on your income statement. It is called the Reportable Fringe Benefits Amount (RFBA).

As the term suggests, it is a 'reportable' amount – it is not income and not taxed. The amount reflects the value of 'benefits' provided to you during the Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) year (1 April - 31 March).

The figure is what the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) calls a 'grossed-up' amount. In other words, it is a gross salary estimate of the value of the salary packaging money paid to you. The ATO calculates the figure as follows:

**Salary packaging payments x 1.8868
= 'Reportable Fringe Benefits Amount (RFBA)'**

Expenses (e.g. \$15,900 x 1.8868)	\$30,000
Meals (\$2,650 x 1.8868)	\$5,000
Total	\$35,000

The RFBA figure must be included in your Tax Return. The amount is not taxed, but it may be used by the ATO at and other Government agencies for any income 'tests' (e.g. HECS/FEE-HELP, Family Assistance or Child Care Subsidy (CCS)).

Superannuation

If you have salary packaged contributions into your superannuation fund, this is also reportable. The amount is shown as Reportable Employer Superannuation Contributions (RESC) and must be included in your Tax Return. Your superannuation fund handles the tax on contributions.

The value of superannuation salary packaging may be used to determine eligibility for certain Government supported programs. These include income support, family assistance, child support and superannuation co-contribution. Please discuss with your accountant or financial adviser.

Please note, if you are salary packaging super, the maximum concessional contribution cap is \$30,000 per year (including the mandatory employer contribution).

Company car/novated lease – taxable value

In most cases, a novated lease with Smartleasing will be structured so that part of your lease payment is deducted post-tax to offset the fringe benefit, so you won't need to include the vehicle's taxable value in your RFBA.

If your novated lease is set up without post-tax deductions, or you have private use of a work vehicle, the taxable value must be included in your RFBA.

The taxable value of the vehicle is combined with any other salary packaging benefits and shown as a single reportable figure in your income statement.

Eligible FBT Exempt Vehicles (EV and PHEV)

If you have a novated lease on an eligible FBT exempt vehicle such as a battery electric or plug in hybrid vehicle then unlike other exempt benefits, although the vehicle is exempt from FBT, it is a reportable fringe benefit. This means, that the taxable value of the exempt electric vehicle will be calculated and reported as a reportable fringe benefit amount on your payment summary.

> Non-reportable payments

Not all salary packaging payments are reported. As a result, they are NOT included in any Government income 'tests'. Non-reportable payments include car parking and remote area housing related benefits.

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What happens to the RFBA?

For most people, nothing. However, it is relevant if you have a FEE-HELP debt, Centrelink (e.g. Family Tax Benefit A or B), child support or if you have no private health (hospital) insurance and you earn above an income threshold (\$97,000 for an individual or \$194,000 for a family in 2024/25).

The RFBA is provided by the Tax Office to various Government agencies and they 'adjust' this figure in different ways.

For example, Centrelink will adjust your RFBA down as follows:

- Reportable Fringe Benefits Amount (RFBA) x 0.53
- E.g. \$35,000 x 0.53 = \$18,550 (\$15,900 + \$2,650).

Centrelink reduce the reported figure back to its cash value (\$15,900 + \$2,650) and then they add this figure to your taxable income (salary) to determine your Centrelink entitlements. Centrelink will arrive back at the same gross salary (earnings) figure before salary packaging.

However, for Centrelink to do this correctly, they must have your RFBA (in this example \$35,000). Centrelink will adjust your figure down (\$18,550 in our example).

Therefore, for someone earning \$58,550 and salary packaging \$15,900 + \$2,650, Centrelink will 'adjust' your income as follows:

Earnings	Income statement (values reported)	Adjusted income
Salary and wages	\$40,000	\$40,000
Reportable Fringe Benefits	\$35,000 x 0.53	\$18,550
Total (value used)		\$58,550

Centrelink will assess this person on \$58,550 (Adjusted Income), as per the example. Income prior to salary packaging was \$58,550, which is the same as the 'adjusted' income figure. So, Centrelink entitlements should remain unchanged as a result of salary packaging (make sure you give Centrelink your correct information).

Do you have an Education Debt, Child Support or no Health Insurance?

If you have an Education debt such as FEE-HELP and HECS, pay or receive child support or you are a 'high' income earner without private health (hospital) insurance, government agencies will calculate your 'adjusted income' as wages plus your reported salary packaging as follows:

Adjusted Income

= Taxable Wages + Reportable Fringe Benefits Amount (RFBA).

Therefore, for someone earning \$58,550 and salary packaging \$15,900 + \$2,650:

Earnings	Income statement (values reported)	Adjusted income
Salary and wages	\$40,000	\$40,000
Reportable Fringe Benefits	\$35,000 x 1	\$35,000
Total (value used)		\$75,000

The income statement amounts (wages and reportable fringe benefits) are simply added together to calculate your 'adjusted income' (but not Centrelink – see above).

If you have a FEE-HELP debt

Your FEE-HELP payments will increase slightly. Send your details and gross income (before salary packaging e.g. \$58,550) to info@smartsalary.com.au. Smartsalary will estimate the additional tax you may need to pay for the financial year to cover your FEE-HELP payment. You can provide this figure to your organisation's payroll to deduct each pay cycle.

If you have child support

Contact the CSA (Child Support Agency) and discuss how your income may impact on child support payments.

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➤ Reading your income statement

Your income statement will show your total earnings from your employer (both taxable and non-taxable earnings).

This may include:

- Salary and wages
- Reportable Fringe Benefits Amount (RFBA)
- Reportable Employer Superannuation Contributions (generally salary packaged only).

Your employer is also required to provide this information to the ATO annually and is usually pre-filled into your tax return (i.e. via myGov where you do it yourself or via your accountant).

For example, if you earned \$58,550 and salary packaged \$15,900 and \$2,650, the income statement will show:

Salary and Wages (\$58,550 – \$15,900 – \$2,650)	\$40,000
Reportable Fringe Benefits {(\$15,900 + \$2,650) x 1.8868}	\$35,000

In the example, you are taxed on only \$40,000 and the \$35,000 is reported (but not taxed). However, when disclosing your income to Government agencies, you must disclose all values (including 'Reportable Fringe Benefits' and 'Reportable Superannuation').



¹ For most people, their payment summary information will now be available at the end of the financial year in their ATO online services account through myGov and will be called an 'income statement'. For more information visit ato.gov.au/Business/Bus/The-way-you-get-your-payment-summary-is-changing

² PBI30 is a Public Benevolent Institution that has an annual salary packaging cap of \$30,000, such as a charity, medical research institutes or aged care facility.

³ This fact sheet contains general information only, does not constitute personal or financial advice and is provided without reference to your organisation policies or your personal circumstances. We recommend you consider your own objectives, financial situation and needs, and, take the appropriate legal, financial or other professional advice based upon your own particular circumstances.

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