

MEDIA RELEASE

FROM SMARTER SPENDING TO DIGITAL RECORD KEEPING: EOFY MADE EASIER WITH OFFICEWORKS

NEW RESEARCH UNCOVERS HOW AUSSIES PLAN TO CLAIM EVERYTHING THEY CAN THIS EOFY

16 June 2025: New research from Officeworks reveals that Australians are eager to maximise their EOFY claims this tax time, but common misconceptions and mistakes could see them miss out.

While 44 per cent of Australians say they usually make work-related purchases in June, two in five (43 per cent) say they are planning to spend more on tax-deductible items this year than they did last year.

When it comes to work-related purchases, three in five (61 per cent) claim office and work supplies at EOFY with tech items (46 per cent), stationery and office supplies (33 per cent) and office furniture (24 per cent) topping the tax time shopping list.

But despite wanting to claim more, many are faced with knowledge and record-keeping barriers. More than one quarter of Australians (28%) say they lost receipts so claimed less and a third (34 per cent) don't know you may be able to use bank statements as proof of expenses.

Jarryd McCarthy, Officeworks General Manager of Merchandise, said: "While many Australians are eager to claim more this EOFY, our research shows that misconceptions about tax time remain common. That's where Officeworks can help, taking some of the guesswork out of EOFY and supporting customers to claim everything they can at tax time.

"We make it easier for tax time shoppers to find great value with everyday low prices and our Price Beat Guarantee* while our convenient delivery options, digital receipts, feature-packed Officeworks app and network of 170+ stores around Australia help make the EOFY shop easier.

"With tech, stationery and office furniture at the top of end of financial year shopping lists, it's clear that Aussies plan to set themselves up for the work year ahead. We know Aussies don't just want low prices—they want smart support that delivers value beyond the cart, especially when it comes to tech. That's why our extensive range and commitment to low prices is backed by expert in-store advice, online buying guides and services like Geeks2U to help make every purchase work harder.

"We're in a unique position at Officeworks in that everything *could* be tax deductible, so whether they're looking to upgrade their work from home set up, invest in new tech, or stock up on office essentials, customers can be confident we've got them covered this tax season," McCarthy said.

While many Australians are eager to claim everything they can, the research showed tax time confusion remains:

- Nearly half (47 per cent) mistakenly think they can use the shortcut method and still claim individual working-from-home expenses.
- 43 per cent wrongly believe they can claim up to \$300 on their return without having made any actual purchases.
- Over a third (35 per cent) incorrectly assume travel between home and work is tax-deductible.

Financial adviser and Pivot Wealth founder, Ben Nash, said these misconceptions can be costly. "One of the biggest mistakes people make is assuming they can claim things just because it's EOFY. You need to have actually incurred an additional expense, and it must relate directly to earning your income."

Nash adds that confusion and poor record-keeping is resulting in many Australians missing out on valid claims. "Officeworks' research found nearly one in three (32 per cent) people admit to missing deductions they were entitled to in previous years and general confusion or poor record keeping is leading people to forgo potential claims. That's real money left on the table."

He advises Australians should take a more proactive and informed approach. "The best thing you can do is get on



the front foot, keep a clear record of your purchases, understand what you're eligible to claim, and take advantage of digital tools that make the process easier. If you're unsure, speak to a tax professional. A bit of clarity now can make a big difference to your return."

While more than half (64 per cent) of Australians claim they're confident they've kept the right documentation, the reality can be more complicated. Paper receipts remain the most common method of tracking expenses, with 44 per cent still storing them physically. However, digital habits are gaining momentum as 27 per cent now store receipts on their computers, and 23 per cent use their phones.

McCarthy said Officeworks is helping customers make the shift to digital receipts. "EOFY can be stressful, especially when lost paperwork gets in the way of maximising your tax return. Switching to digital receipts, like the email and in-app options Officeworks offers, is a simple way to keep track of your expenses. Even small steps like these can make a real difference when it comes to feeling more in control at tax time," he said.

In addition to challenges consumers face, one in three (29 per cent) small business leaders, often with more complex tax returns to navigate, say they find EOFY overwhelming. Yet the research also highlights a silver lining – 37 per cent of small business leaders report feeling a sense of pride during EOFY. For many, it's more than a financial checkpoint, but a moment tdouttao reflect and celebrate their achievements.

McCarthy said: "We understand how challenging this time of year can be for small business owners. That's why we provide tailored support and great value to help them navigate EOFY with clarity and confidence. With an Officeworks for Business account, small business customers can save 5% on over a thousand business essentials, including tech and furniture*. They can access this discount online or at any of our 170+ stores nationwide plus get free standard delivery on orders over \$65 and 2-hour Click & Collect*. Consolidated purchasing digital tools like receipt tracking and order history are also built in, making tax prep simpler. Officeworks for Business is free to join and all you need is an ABN to register, meaning small businesses of all sizes can access these benefits at EOFY and year-round."

Visit officeworks.com.au/eofy to find out more about getting ready for end of financial year with Officeworks.

- ENDS -

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SHOPPING EOFY AT OFFICEWORKS

Making it easier to shop low prices

- Price Beat Guarantee: Officeworks' Price Beat Guarantee means that if you find a lower price
 identical stocked item that's in stock with a competitor (even if it's on sale), Officeworks will not only
 match it, they'll beat it by 5%.

 *Exclusions apply.
- **Price check, price drop:** Officeworks checks competitor prices daily and drops them on the most relevant products so customers can have the confidence they're getting great value.

• Convenient locations and hours

- Officeworks now has 173 stores around Australia.
- o 75% of Australians live within 10km of an Officeworks store.
- Stores are open early and close late, making it easier for customers to shop when best suits them.
- With our free Click & Collect service, customers can order online and collect from any one of our 170+.

Exclusions and T&Cs apply. See website for details.

Delivery options

- o Officeworks offers a range of delivery options to suit your needs. This includes:
 - Same day or next day delivery to more than 3000 postcodes across Australia. Exclusions and T&Cs apply. See our <u>Delivery Policy</u> for details.
 - 2-hour delivery in selected metro areas



- Exclusions and T&Cs apply. 2-hour delivery within 10kms of eligible stores. See our Delivery Policy for details.
- Free Click and Collect service that allows you to order online and collect from your nearest Officeworks store.
 - Exclusions and T&Cs apply. See website for details.
- OnePass members get free delivery on eligible items or orders, no minimum spend.
 Exclusions and T&Cs apply. See website for details.

Officeworks for Business

- Officeworks for Business is a tailored service that helps small and medium-sized businesses save more, simplifying and supporting their business needs.
- With Officeworks for Business, get access to exclusive pricing and save 5% on over a thousand business essentials, including tech, office supplies and furniture.
- Officeworks for Business is free to join all you need is an ABN. <u>Click here to sign up.</u>

Digital receipts

 Available via Officeworks for Business accounts, through the Officeworks app or via email or text from in-store checkouts, digital receipts make it easy to keep expense records organised and accessible come tax time.

Officeworks app

 The <u>Officeworks app</u> is a comprehensive tool for daily tasks, offering features like back-in-stock alerts, order tracking, plus digital receipts physical receipt scanning to help you better track your expenses and prepare in the lead up to EOFY.

Research Overview

The research was commissioned by Alt/Shift and Officeworks and was conducted by Lonergan Research in accordance with the ISO 20252 standard. Lonergan Research surveyed 1,001 Australians 18+ and 500 Australian Business Leaders in organisations 20 or less employees aged 18+. Surveys were distributed throughout Australia including both capital city and non-capital city areas. The survey was conducted online amongst

members of a permission-based panel, between 30 April and 3 May 2025. After interviewing, data was weighted to the latest population estimates sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

About Officeworks

Established 30 years ago in Richmond, Victoria, Officeworks is one of Australia's leading retailers, selling a range of products and services in a variety of areas including technology, stationery, education resources, furniture, art supplies and print and create. Officeworks is convenient for its customers all over Australia, operating more than 170 stores, online channels with 40,000 products, and delivering to over 3,000 postcodes. The Officeworks Business team help Australian businesses of all sizes, including small businesses through to Government, Schools and Early Learning Centres, start, run and grow. Officeworks is helping its customers work, learn, create and connect, so they can help make bigger things happen.