

I'm leaving... on a Jet Plane....

I know, it's so bloody glamorous, isn't it! I'm off to Ireland for some serious holidaying, and then I'm travelling to the UK to begin work on the long-awaited *Freelance Success* book (see What's Up for more info)! For those of you who've been a part of the Freelance Success network for a long time, you'll be happy to hear that it's finally happening. Of course, the workshops will be going ahead in November, as promised! So until then,

Monica



puppeteer

Freelance F A Qs

Dear FAQs,

Can I still claim tax deductions for my creative work if I don't have a registered business? I already have an ABN.

M-M-B

You can, but you need to be careful. If you still have any work as an employee (ie, you're not fully freelance) then you'll be limited in what you can claim. The only way to guarantee the full range of deductions is to become a business in the eye of the ATO. This means more than just having an ABN or business name - the ATO looks at the whole picture when deciding whether or not you are a 'real' business, such as having a business plan. For more info visit www.ato.gov.au or call the Small Business Hotline on 132866.

Dear FAQs,

I get really scared when I have to make cold calls for work. I hate it. Is there any way around this nightmare? It makes me feel sick.

- Funny Tummy

Mmmm... so sorry, but there's nothing much I can do about that. Best advice I can give you is to practice before you call, and make sure you've done your homework so you know who to speak to. I find if I pretend to be brave, even when I'm not, it helps. I don't recommend vodka!

Want to ask FAQs? Email us at faq@freelancesuccess.com.au and all the answers are yours!

Feature Article:

Adventures with the Tax Dept

One of the great rewards for being a creative freelancer is having the opportunity to travel for pleasure and work at the same time. Most of us find our work fun, so having a bit of career time as well as a holiday shouldn't be a chore - especially when you consider the financial advantages!

The first thing most Freelance Success students want to know is - can my travel be a deduction? The answer is yes, although the definition of travel for work is very strictly defined. You need to be well organised and plan the work aspects of your trip carefully.

Do your homework! A colleague of mine is a fabric designer and was planning a trip to Italy. He found a convention for fabric designers happening in Milan, and organised his trip around it. As a result, a good part of his journey was a write off!

It's extremely important that you keep a diary of your travel and work while you're away. Be very specific about where you go and what you do. Names and contacts of people you speak to, and the purpose of your various adventures, will be crucial.

Whatever you spend while you're away, you'll need to provide solid written evidence. Receipts, tickets, credit card statements - all of these will do, as long as they match your diary.

Apportioning your expenses might also be necessary. That's when you decide how much of your trip will be holiday, and how much is work. You then use this as a percentage to claim expenses - if you're holidaying for a week, and you work for two days, then you can probably claim around 25% of your ticket. I try not to mix up my days too much - I'll set aside certain days for work, and only do work on those days. A tourist jaunt in the morning and a business meeting in the afternoon can get confusing when working it out!

The great thing about being in business, and establishing yourself as fully freelance, is that you don't necessarily need to make money on your trip! If it's a research trip, or you're setting up contacts for paid work in the future, then that might be enough. Be careful, though! The ATO will come down on you like a tonne of bricks for lying - and we don't want that to happen!

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AdHOC

The Freelance Success Newsletter

What's Up Freelance Success?

- ◆ The Freelance Success Workshops will start up again in **November** at **two venues!** They don't start until early November, but you can enrol now via our snazzy website: www.freelancesuccess.com.au/enrolments. We have a **Saturday class** starting on the **11th November** at the Forest Arts Centre, Forestville. We also have an Evening class starting **Thursday 9th November** and running for 6 weeks at Waverly Library, Bondi Jctn.
- ◆ We're very proud to be sponsoring **2SER's annual Radiothon** in October. We've offered several free workshop placements as prizes to help support this great Sydney community station. Why not tune in and see if you can win yourself a place in the upcoming classes?



tv crew

- ◆ Would you like me to shut up about the **Freelance Success books** yet? One last time... I know, I carry on about it every issue, but I'm excited! I'll be in London at the end of the month going through final negotiations with the UK publisher who will be releasing both the Australian and British versions of the book. And after that, who knows?
- ◆ **Remember, Saturday 2nd December is our party...** We'll be celebrating Christmas, but I don't know where yet. Check out the "events" page of our website for more info.

Next mailout... Friday 3rd November

freelance success

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