



Newsletter: 680/2018
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NSWA bungles group certs for a second time

For several years members have had a recurring nightmare come tax time – LAHA on group certificates.

LAHA has been incorrectly shown as part of the 'total allowances', when it should not appear on the certificate at all (and prior to HealthShare NSW managing group certificates it never was).

LAHA is a tax-free allowance and does not make up part of your taxable income.

By showing LAHA in the 'total allowances' box on the group certificate, it will then be processed on your tax return as part of your taxable income and you will pay tax on this allowance.

This affects all staff receiving LAHA and due to HealthShare NSW/NSWA inadequacies it has not been properly addressed & corrected for their staff – something they are obliged to do. Consequently, in most cases the tax incorrectly paid is hundreds (and even thousands) of dollars. Members are now being slugged with bills from the ATO. Their repeated interactions with payroll, HealthShare & the managers within those areas have been unproductive and frustrating to say the least. A minimal number of individuals have gotten any resolution out of them and are still stuck with their ATO bills.

For some reason HealthShare NSW do not see this as their problem and are telling affected individuals to take it up with their accountant and the ATO.

The NSW advice to get your accountant to make an adjustment on your tax return in relation to LAHA **will not** correct this HealthShare NSW-created problem. This is not sufficient for the ATO – an entity much higher than HealthShare NSW, and with greater understanding of the tax system requirements as a whole.

We have been demanding that NSW reissue all group certificates correctly amended to reflect LAHA as a tax-free allowance for months. It seems NSW is blaming HealthShare for the problem, whereas it's the employer's responsibility to administer payroll without error, even if they have outsourced payroll to another department.

ADHSU recommends HSU paramedics cease entering debtor details in your eMR or PHCR as a protest and to focus the minds of these bureaucrats who are more interested in blaming each other than fixing the problem.

In unity,

Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD