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NSWA still hasn't sorted out its latest mess: non-taxable allowances

NSWA Executives are an error prone bunch. If they aren't making countless dangerous mistakes in Medication Guides (every year they update them), they are outsourcing payroll to a group that doesn't know the difference between non-taxable and taxable allowances.

The employer has a duty to provide a payroll system error free. Sometimes mistakes are made, we understand that. However, to make the same mistake each year is totally unacceptable. (See previous newsletters for explanation of their stuff ups: [NSWA bungles group certs for a second time](#) and [NSWA settles group cert dispute: bans lifted](#)).

Members will know that we threatened industrial action a couple weeks ago until NSW fixed the taxable allowance bungle once and for all. As a sign of good faith, we lifted those bans after NSW called us and promised to ensure their payroll provider would do the following:

- Written documentation would be automatically provided to any member who received non-taxable income in the past few years to the standard required to allow the ATO to make adjustments for tax return purposes.
- An FAQ would be produced to inform members that the errors exist (many would not be aware that the employer's mistakes has led them to paying more tax than required).
- An arrangement will be made where members can have their reasonable costs in seeking tax agent/accountant advice to fix this mess reimbursed on production of a receipt.

None of the above has happened and we are closing in on Christmas. There is no doubt that the employer's service provider will try to cut costs by sending their payroll staff on leave over the Christmas break.

We have now given NSW a deadline of this Wednesday to automatically provide the documentation to all members who received non-taxable allowances in the relevant years and produce the FAQ. If they don't have these things finalised by then we'll be calling for industrial action to be placed back on. They have until midnight tomorrow (Tuesday).

Watch this space on Wednesday to find out if NSW has bothered to undo their mistake or not.

Stuart Hatter
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