

## Payroll Tax Ruling PTA018

### Contractor Deductions

Version	Issued	Dates of Effect	
1	1 July 2009	From: 1 July 2009	To: Current

#### PREAMBLE

The *Payroll Tax Act* (the Act), which commenced on 1 July 2009, rewrites the *Pay-roll Tax Act* to largely harmonise it with the legislation of other states.

Parties to a 'relevant contract' are deemed to be employers and employees (sections 33 and 34 of the Act) and payments made under a contract are deemed to be wages (section 35 of the Act). Deemed wages are subject to payroll tax under section 36 of the Act.

While most contracts for the provision of services come within the meaning of 'relevant contract' under section 32 of the Act, certain types of contracts are specifically excluded from the definition of 'relevant contract'. Where none of the exclusions apply, section 35(2) of the Act allows the Commissioner of Territory Revenue (the Commissioner) to determine an amount which can be deducted from the payments made under the contract.

The purpose of this Payroll Tax Ruling is to set out those deductions for materials and equipment for certain types of contractors and to outline the manner in which new deductions may be granted.

#### RULING

Deductions below are for the non-labour components where the contractor provides equipment and/or materials. Based on a similar ruling issued in New South Wales and Victoria which is held out to be based on submissions made by employers and industry representatives, the Commissioner has allowed the following percentage deductions:

Type of contractor	Deduction from gross payments to contractor
Architects	5%
Blind Fitters	25%
Bricklayers	30%
Building Supervisors (who provide their own vehicles and inspect more than six sites per week)	25%
Cabinet Makers/Kitchen Fitters	30%
Carpenters	25%
Carpet layers	25%
Computer programmers	5%
Draftspersons	5%

Type of contractor (continued)	Deduction from gross payments to contractor
Electricians	25%
Engineers	5%
Fencing contractors	25%
Painters (who provide their own paint)	30%
Painters (who do not provide their own paint)	15%
Plumbers	25%
Resilient floor layers/vinyl layers	37%
Roof tillers	25%
Tree fellers	25%
Wall and ceiling plasterers	20%
Wall and Floor Tilers	25%

If a profession/trade is not listed above, a principal may apply to the Commissioner for a determination with details regarding the cost of materials and equipment provided by the contractor.

**Please note that rulings do not have the force of law. Each decision made by the Territory Revenue Office is made on the merits of each individual case, having regard to any relevant ruling. Commissioner's Guideline CG-GEN-001, which sets out information on the revenue publication system, is incorporated into and is to be read as one with this Ruling. All Circulars, Guidelines and Rulings are available from [www.revenue.nt.gov.au](http://www.revenue.nt.gov.au).**



Craig Vukman  
**COMMISSIONER OF TERRITORY REVENUE**

For further information contact the Territory Revenue Office:

GPO Box 1974  
DARWIN NT 0801

Tel: 1300 305 353  
Fax: 08 8999 5577

Email: [ntrevenue@nt.gov.au](mailto:ntrevenue@nt.gov.au)  
Website: [www.revenue.nt.gov.au](http://www.revenue.nt.gov.au)