IT 2030 (as amended 25.01.85) - Income tax: value of employees' housing for tax instalment deduction purposes: 'remote' towns - for s.26AAAB purposes

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INCOME TAX: VALUE OF EMPLOYEES' HOUSING FOR TAX INSTALMENT DEDUCTION PURPOSES : "REMOTE" TOWNS - FOR s.26AAAB PURPOSES

F.O.I. EMBARGO: May be released

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REFERENCE NO: SUBJECT REFS: LEGISLAT. REFS:

I 1104137 SUBSIDISED HOUSING 26AAAB EMPLOYEES' HOUSING 221D VALUE OF EMPLOYEES' HOUSING TAX INSTALMENT DEDUCTIONS REMOTE TOWNS NON-REMOTE TOWNS NOTIONAL ANNUAL RENTAL VALUE

PREAMBLE For the purposes of computing tax instalment deductions from remuneration paid to an employee, section 221C of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936 requires that an employee be deemed to have received as salary or wages, in addition to any actual payment of money, the amount fixed by any award as the value to the employee of the use of accommodation or quarters provided by his or her employer. Under section 221D, the Commissioner is authorised to vary the amount of instalments to be deducted from the salary or wages of an employee or a class of employees to meet special circumstances.

> 2. An employer with a large number of employees in various locations who are eligible under section 26AAAB for the concessional basis of determining the assessable value of residential accommodation provided to them by the employer sought, as a matter of administrative convenience, approval of the Commissioner to adopt a notional annual rental value for general use in calculating tax instalment deductions of such employees. An industrial award governing the conditions of employment of employees in the particular industry fixed monetary values on the housing supplied to the employees by reference to the localities in which the housing was situated.

3. The employer also submitted a list of towns in which employees were located and sought agreement with its classification of the towns identified according to whether or not they were "remote", i.e., whether they were not at or adjacent to an eligible urban area within the meaning of sub-paragraph 26AAAB(1) (a). RULING 4. The Commissioner has exercised his power under Section 221D of the Income Tax Assessment Act to allow the employer to adopt a notional rental value, for PAYE purposes only, of \$6 per week for employees who occupy employer-provided accommodation and who meet the "remoteness" test of sub-paragraph 26AAAB(1) (a). This figure represents a weekly rental value of \$60 which is considered widely representative of housing accommodation values in "remote" areas.

> 5. It is, nevertheless, open to an employee to establish that the value for a particular unit of accommodation is something less than \$6 per week. Any application for a lesser value would need to be supported by full details of the accommodation.

6. If an employee pays rent in respect of employer-provided accommodation, the notional value of \$6 per week would be reduced by the amount of rent paid. For example, an employee who pays rent of \$6 per week or more would have his or her notional value reduced from \$6 per week to nil.

7. The notional figure of \$6 per week is only for convenience of application of the PAYE system and does not represent the value to be returned as assessable income by the employee. Taxpayers who seek the benefit of the section 26AAAB concession will need to either calculate the amount to be included in their assessable income of a particular year by reference to the actual market rental value of the particular accommodation in the base year or furnish sufficient information to enable the assessable value to be determined.

8. The notional annual rental value of \$312 (\$6 per week) used for PAYE purposes is not to be shown by the employer at label Q, Column 2 of the employee's group certificate. The amount shown at this label should be the full value of residential accommodation provided to the employee.

9. The towns listed by the employer have been categorised as either "remote" or "non-remote" for the purposes of section 26AAAB. It should be noted that this list is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all towns throughout Australia which may be categorised as "remote" or "non-remote".

1 September 1983

COMMISSIONER OF TAXATION

APPENDIX

REMOTE

New South Wales

| BARRABA | GRENFELL | MULLUMBIMBY |
|--------------|----------|----------------|
| BATEMANS BAY | GRIFFITH | MURRURUNDI |
| BEGA | GULGONG | MUSWELLBROOK |
| BOMBALA | GUNDAGAI | NAMBUCCA HEADS |
| BOURKE | GUNNEDAH | NAROOMA |
| BREWARRINA | HARDEN | NARRABRI |

| BYRON BAY | HAY | NARRANDERA |
|---------------|------------|--------------|
| CANOWINDRA | HENTY | NARROMINE |
| COBAR | INVERELL | NYNGAN |
| CONDOBOLIN | IVANHOE | OBERON |
| COOMA | JUNEE | PARKES |
| COONABARABRAN | KANDOS | QUIRINDI |
| COONAMBLE | KEMPSEY | SCONE |
| COOTAMUNDRA | KYOGLE | TEMORA |
| COROWA | LEETON | TENTERFIELD |
| COWRA | LOCKHART | TUMUT |
| CROOKWELL | MACKSVILLE | ULLADULLA |
| DENILIQUIN | MACLEAN | WALCHA |
| EDEN | MANILLA | WALGETT |
| FINLEY | MERIMBULA | WARREN |
| FORBES | MERRIWA | WELLINGTON |
| GILGANDRA | MOREE | WERRIS CREEK |
| GLEN INNES | MORUYA | WEST WYALONG |
| GLOUCESTER | MUDGEE | YOUNG |
| | | |

REMOTE

Victoria

ARARAT BAIRNSDALE CAMPERDOWN COLAC ECHUCA HAMILTON HORSHAM KERANG KORUMBURRA LEONGATHA MARYBOROUGH MYRTLEFORD PORTLAND STAWELL SWAN HILL WARRACKNABEAL YARRAWONGA

REMOTE

Queensland

| ATHERTON AYR BABINDA BARCALDINE BILOELA BLACKALL BLACKWATER BOWEN CALOUNDRA CHARLEVILLE CHARTERS TOWERS CHILDERS CHINCHILLA CLERMONT COLLINSVILLE COOROY | HUGHENDEN INGHAM INNISFAIL KAWANA WATERS KINGAROY LONGREACH MAREEBA MAROOCHYDORE MILES MONTO MOSSMAN MUNDUBBERA MURGON NAMBOUR NANANGO PITTSWORTH | WARWICK YEPOON WEIPA |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| ••• | | |
| | PITTSWORTH PROSERPINE | |
| CUNNAMULLA DALBY | RAVENSHOE | |
| DALBI EMERALD | ROMA | |
| EMERALD | RUMA | |

| GAYNDAH | ST GEORGE |
|-------------|------------|
| GOONDIWINDI | STANTHORPE |
| GYMPIE | TEWANTIN |
| HOME HILL | TULLY |

REMOTE

South Australia

BORDERTOWN CLARE KADINA LOXTON MILLICENT NARACOORTE PORT LINCOLN RENMARK STREAKY BAY WOOMERA

REMOTE

Northern Terrirory

KATHERINE

REMOTE

Western Australia

BOYUP BROOK BRIDGETOWN BROOME BUSSELTON CARNARVON COLLIE ESPERANCE HARVEY KARRATHA KATANNING KUNUNURRA MANJIMUP MERREDIN MOORA MOUNT BARKER NARROGIN NORSEMAN PORT HEDLAND WAGIN

REMOTE

Tasmania

GEORGE TOWN QUEENSTOWN SCOTTSDALE

SMITHTON

NON-REMOTE

New South Wales

ALBURY ARMIDALE BALLINA BATHURST BELLINGEN BLACKHEATH BLAXLAND BLAYNEY BOWRAL BROKEN HILL CAMDEN CAMPBELLTOWN MORISSETT CASINO CESSNOCK COFF'S HARBOUR NELSON BAY CORRIMAL DUBBO DUNGOG ETTALONG BEACH ORANGE FAIRY MEADOW PENRITH FORSTER GOSFORD GOULBURN

GRAFTON GUYRA KATOOMBA KIAMA KURRI KURRI LAURIETON LISMORE LITHGOW MAITLAND MITTAGONG MOLONG MOSSVALE MURWILLUMBAH THIRROUL NEWCASTLE NORTH ALBURY NOWRA PICTON PORTLAND

OUEANBEYAN RAYMOND TERRACE RICHMOND RIVERSTONE SINGLETON SHELL HARBOUR SOUTH WAGGA WAGGA SPRINGWOOD ST MARYS TAMWORTH TAREE TERRIGAL THE ENTRANCE TOUKLEY TWEED HEADS UMINA BEACH URALLA WAGGA WAGGA WAUCHOPE WESTON (ACT) WINDSOR PORT MACQUARIE WINGHAM

WOLLONGONG WOONONA WOY WOY WYONG YASS

NON-REMOTE

Victoria

| BACCHUS MARSH BALLARAT BELMONT BENALLA BENDIGO BERWICK CASTLEMAINE CORIO GEELONG GEELONG WEST HASTING KYABRAM KYNETON MILDURA MOE MORNINGTON MORWELL NUMURKAH ROSEBUD SALE | SUNBURY TATURA TRARALGON WANGARATTA WARRAGUL WARRNAMBOOL WERRIBEE WODONGA |
|---|--|
| ROSEBUD SALE SEYMOUR | |
| SHEPPARTON | |

NON-REMOTE

Queensland

AITKENVALE BEAUDESERT BOONAH BRIBIE ISLAND BUNDABERG BURLEIGH HEADS CABOOLTURE CAIRNS COOLANGATTA GATTON GLADSTONE GORDONVALE HERMIT PARK IPSWICH KILCOY LAIDLEY MACKAY MARYBOROUGH MOUNT MORGAN MOUNT ISA NORTH ROCKHAMPTON OAKEY

PIALBA ROCKHAMPTON SARINA SOUTHPORT SURFERS PARADISE TOOWOOMBA TOWNSVILLE

NON-REMOTE

South Australia

GAWLER MOUNT GAMBIER MURRAY BRIDGE NURIOOTPA PORT AUGUSTA PORT PIRIE STRATHALBYN VICTOR HARBOUR WHYALLA WHYALLA NORRIE

NON-REMOTE

Northern Territory

ALICE SPRINGS CASUARINA DARWIN

NON-REMOTE

Western Australia

ALBANY BOULDER BUNBURY GERALDTON KALGOORLIE MANDURA NORTHAM YORK

NON-REMOTE

Tasmania

BURNIE CYGNET DEVONPORT LAUNCESTON MOWBRAY NEW NORFOLK ULVERSTONE