

Summary Table

Issue	Running a professional arts business	Hobbyist	Employee performer
Australian business number (ABN)	Required if you are 'carrying on a business'. You can obtain an ABN online at www.abr.gov.au .	Not required. Use 'hobby exemption' forms to avoid withholding of 46.5%. Available at http://www.ato.gov.au/content/downloads/nat3346.pdf	Not required to provide ABN to employer. The employer is obliged to withhold income tax from payments at the appropriate marginal tax rates.
GST registration	Required when annual gross income exceeds \$75,000 per annum. Otherwise voluntary.	Generally not required.	Not required.
Non-commercial losses	Artist may claim losses from their professional arts businesses provided the income from non-professional arts business is less than \$40,000. Otherwise the standard 'non-commercial losses rules' will apply.	Not available.	Not applicable.
Further information	TR2005/1: <i>Income Tax: Carrying on a business as a professional artist'</i> ATO: www.ato.gov.au Australian Business Register: www.abr.gov.au Arts Law www.artslaw.com.au	TR2005/1: <i>Income Tax: Carrying on a business as a professional artist'</i> ATO: www.ato.gov.au	Performing Artists guide to completing income tax return (NAT2325-6.2007) ATO: www.ato.gov.au/individuals