

Hon. Ms. Julia Gillard MP  
Suite MG 41,  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Hon Minister Gillard,

**Re: Education Tax Rebate (ETR)**

We note with great consternation that the Frequently Asked Questions section of the ETR has been modified to specifically exclude “Tutoring Costs”. This has been done despite a request from accountable tutors that tuition costs be considered at least to the extent that they were under the “An Even Start (AES)” program.

We contend that tutors and tutoring companies registered with the ATA meet levels of compliance not seen anywhere else in the tutoring sector in Australia. The Office of Fair Trading in NSW has for the past three years recommended that if parents are seeking a tutor then they go with an ATA registered tutor. All tutors and tutoring companies registered with the ATA, the peak industry body in Australia, agree to abide by the ATA Code of Conduct. This requires that tutors be honest in all their dealings and place the interests of students foremost.

The eligibility of computer software programs, some of which cost several thousands of dollars and are associated with questionable marketing practices and claims, seems at odds with the Government’s interest in educational accountability, yet educational software is eligible.

Members of the ATA are accountable tutors and in their capacity as mentors work to boost the self-esteem of students. Yet we are not eligible under the present criteria for the Education Tax Rebate.

We respectfully ask that you reconsider this matter.

Yours sincerely,