

Family Law Services

Effective January 2021



Delbridge
forensic accounting

Delbridge Forensic Accounting - Family Law Services

From our many years of experience in Family Law matters, we have compiled the following list of services that have been utilised by our clients. While it is our normal practice to charge for our services on an hourly rates basis, we have detailed indicative fees for typical matters. We trust this information provides an understanding of the wide range of services that we can offer you and your clients.

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Initial Review of Documents

A brief review of financial documents at an early stage in the proceedings can provide a useful insight into the necessity or otherwise for a valuation and allow identification of any other apparent financial issues. Our initial thoughts would be discussed either over the phone or in person with you and your client. This may be of advantage when considering assets where it is not clear if there is any real value, such as small businesses, hobby businesses, employee share plans or options.

An initial review and discussion of a single entity would be conducted for a fixed cost of \$660 including GST. Note that this will be a discussion only, and does not include any written advice.

Preliminary Valuation Report

This type of report would be useful in providing an indication of value for settlement discussions. It would involve less research and investigation than a formal report, and would therefore not be suitable for Court. The value provided in a preliminary report may be a wider range than that of a formal report.

The cost of a preliminary report for a single entity would normally be in the range of \$3,300 to \$5,500 including GST. Entities valued only on a net asset basis would be at the lower end of the range, and the higher end of the range would involve earnings based valuations and the preliminary consideration of issues such as minority interest discounts.

Formal Valuation Report

A formal valuation report provides a thoroughly researched, definitive opinion of value and is suitable for filing for Court purposes. In preparing this type of report we undertake sufficient research and investigation necessary for us to support our opinion in Court.

A formal valuation report on a single entity would normally cost in the range of \$4,400 to \$12,000 including GST, depending on the complexities and issues involved. Where there are multiple entities in a group structure, the total cost will exceed this amount, yet may be less on a per entity basis. Estimates can be provided on a case by case basis.

Reasonableness Review/Shadow Expert Services

In some matters, you may receive an opposing party's valuation or the report of a single expert that requires review. In such circumstances, we are able to review the valuation report and discuss the reasonableness of the methodology and value derived. If considered appropriate, we can provide written advice outlining any deficiencies and items for further attention or investigation.

To briefly review and discuss our findings in relation to the report of another expert on a single entity, our fees would normally be \$660 to \$1,320. Where a written response is required the cost would depend on the quality of the report being reviewed.

Review of Settlement Structure for Taxation Implications

We can provide advice with respect to the tax liabilities of proposed settlements, as well as considering alternative settlement structures that would reduce the potential tax liabilities.

Investigation Reports

In some cases there are issues, other than value or that impact on value, which require further investigation. Such issues may include allegations of cash income not being recorded as business income or concerns over why the assets of the marriage are lower than expected.

We are able to conduct an investigation, with a view to providing a report to support or dispel such allegations.

The cost of such investigations will vary greatly depending on the nature and extent of investigations required. We also note, that such investigations can be costly, and do not always result in the desired outcome. Therefore, we suggest that investigations be conducted in stages, and the cost and potential benefits of continuing be assessed at the end of each stage.

Expert Witness Testimony

Suitably qualified and experienced individuals are available to provide expert testimony.

Brief to Counsel for Cross Examination

To assist Counsel in cross examination of an expert, we are able to brief Counsel of the strengths and weaknesses of the expert's opinion. Often of value is an analysis considering the financial impact of any differences of opinion. This allows Counsel to focus on issues that will have the most impact on the judgment.

Current hourly charge out rates

(effective from 1 January 2021)

Title/Person	Hourly Rate (Exclusive of GST) \$	GST (10%) \$	Total Hourly Rate (Inclusive of GST) \$
Director	600	60	660
Associate Director	420	42	462
Forensic Accountants	180 – 300	18 – 30	198 – 330
Forensic Analysts	120 – 220	12 – 22	132 – 242
Other Staff	100 – 150	10 – 15	110 – 165

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