

# Family Law Services

Effective March 2025



**Delbridge**  
forensic accounting

## **Delbridge Forensic Accounting - Family Law Services**

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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**

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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 \$880 including GST. Note that this would comprise a discussion only, not written advice.

## **Preliminary Valuation Report**

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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 \$4,400 to \$8,800 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**

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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 for a single trading entity would normally cost in the range of \$7,700 to \$14,850 including GST, depending on the size, 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. Broad guidance as to the cost per entity is detailed in the following table:

Broad per entity fee estimate	Fee ex GST \$	Fee incl GST \$
<b>Trading entities</b>		
Turnover < \$10 million – General trading activity	11,500 to 13,500	12,650 to 14,850
Turnover > \$10 million but < \$30million	13,500 to 17,000	14,850 to 18,700
Turnover >\$30 million	17,000 to 23,000	18,700 to 25,300
Asset owning or service entity associated with trading entity	4,600 to 5,800	5,060 to 6,380
Small or low profit trader, asset valuation basis likely	7,000 to 9,000	7,700 to 9,900
<b>Investment entities</b>		
Holding coy, minimal balance sheet items	2,500	2,750
Passive investment entity: Two to three assets	3,500 to 4,600	3,850 to 5,060
Passive investment: Several assets / inter-entity loans etc	4,600 to 6,000	5,060 to 6,600
Passive investment: Many assets	700 to 1,000 per asset	770 to 1,100 per asset

Estimates can be provided on a case by case basis following provision of a group structure diagram and recent financial statements.

### **Reasonableness Review/Shadow Expert Services**

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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 range from \$880 to \$1,600 inclusive of GST. Where a written response is required, the cost would depend on the complexity and quality of the report being reviewed.

### **Review of Settlement Structure for Taxation Implications**

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We can provide advice with respect to the tax liabilities associated with proposed settlements, with these services provided at the Director level. We can recommend other tax specialists for complex structuring / restructuring work and tax effective settlement proposals.

## Transaction Review Reports

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In some cases there are issues, other than value or that impact on value, which require further investigation. Such issues may include the allocation of transactions to the parties' loan accounts, concerns over why the assets of the marriage are lower than expected, or the benefits received from the conduct of a business. Subject to the extent of the allegations, we are able to conduct a review of source ledgers, with a view to providing a report to support or dispel such allegations. We can recommend other experts for complex matters or where there are fraud or tax evasion concerns.

## Brief to Counsel for Cross Examination

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To assist Counsel in cross examination of an expert, we are able to prepare a brief for Counsel of the strengths and weaknesses of an expert opinion. An analysis considering the financial impact of any differences of opinion is often useful.

## Current hourly charge out rates

(effective from 1 January 2025)

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<b>Title/Person</b>	<b>Hourly Rate (Exclusive of GST) \$</b>	<b>GST (10%) \$</b>	<b>Total Hourly Rate (Inclusive of GST) \$</b>
Directors	520 - 750	52 - 75	572 - 825
Consultants	360 - 480	36 - 48	396 - 528
Forensic Managers	360 - 400	36 - 40	396 - 440
Forensic Accountants	240 - 300	24 - 30	264 - 330
Forensic Analysts	120 - 140	12 - 14	132 - 154
Other Staff	120 - 150	12 - 15	132 - 165

In lieu of line item billing for telephone calls, printing, technical resources and information sources, and similar expenses, we will charge a Technology and Resources Levy of 2.5% of the time cost incurred.

## Timeframe

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The preparation of a valuation report generally takes approximately four weeks from receipt of all information required. Realistically, allowing time for the parties to compile all of the information necessary for the valuation, the process usually takes at least eight to ten weeks in total from the return of signed retainer agreements and payment of initial fees, to provision of the report. The ultimate timing of any report would be dependent on the provision of the financial information required, the timing of responses to our request for additional information issued following our review of the financial statements, the provision of other expert reports (if required, including for example, specialised intellectual property, real estate, plant and equipment, owner remuneration) and our workload at the time that the information is provided.

## Contact Details

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