

# HEALTHY, WEALTHY & WISE



## DID YOU KNOW?

The cost of the uniform and laundering (washing) the uniforms can be tax deductible. Check with your accountant or contact the Australian Tax Office for more information [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au).

# WEAR IT WITH PRIDE

Uniforms were first introduced into the police force in 1829. The reason? Because individual police needed to be seen by the public as authoritative figures who were part of a 'force'. It is now well documented that members of the public are less likely to break the law if they see the police shield or a police officer in uniform. There is much more respect for officers in uniform which is important as they are often out alone or in areas with high levels of crime.

While the police were not the first to introduce uniforms, they are certainly an interesting role model for the taxi industry.

WEARING YOUR NETWORK APPROVED UNIFORM IS NOT ONLY REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND YOUR AUTHORISED TAXI NETWORK, IT IS ALSO EXPECTED BY OUR PASSENGERS WHO REQUIRE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE BY A PERSON WHO LOOKS THE PART.

Uniforms do many things...the wearing of a uniform:

- Provides you with easy dressing options each day - you don't have to worry about what to wear.
- Brings about a sense of belonging to a group; you are part of an industry, that proudly identifies its key people - you, the drivers, who are the front line and the public face of the taxi industry.
- Makes the customer feel safer being transported by someone in uniform, the uniform provides a sense of authority in the same way that pilots, police and the army wear uniforms.
- Adds to professionalism of the taxi industry. If you look like a professional, passengers will be more likely to treat you as one. As one driver said "I wear a tie because I get less flack from passengers." There is

considerable research about the psychology of wearing a uniform which stems from the instant opinion people form of one another based on dress, through to the respect for 'professionals' who are well-dressed.

- Promotes the network you work for so the passenger will remember to call your network next time - that means more jobs in the pool for you and your colleagues.

A driver has the uniform on (so he thinks he's meeting the regulations), but it's dirty, unironed and a little worn out. Is this ok? No, drivers should wear the uniform with pride! It's not just what you wear, it's how you wear it.

Be clean and tidy, wash and press the shirts before every shift, replace worn out items and stand tall and proud when you have it on.

Taxi driver uniforms have come a long way since they became mandatory in 1994. The original uniforms consisted of trousers

or shorts, shirts and epaulettes. Cold weather gear was a simple woollen jumper or vest.

These days networks offer a variety of uniform items to suit Sydney's changing weather conditions and individual needs and tastes. There are hats and caps, many varieties of cold and wet weather gear. Check out what's available at your network.

Sydney's taxis are world leaders and the uniform standard of our drivers are no exception. Just this year, New York City officials have changed the rules of what NY taxi drivers can wear. New standards require drivers to "present a professional appearance". The previous dress code banned tube shirts, tank tops and swimwear but just about anything else was considered acceptable.

## CLAUSE 136: DRIVER TO WEAR UNIFORM

The driver of a taxi-cab that is connected to a taxi-cab network must wear an approved network uniform at all times while driving the taxi-cab for hire.

**Penalty notice (fine): \$75**

**Maximum Penalty: 5 penalty units (\$550)**