

# Understanding Social Security Payments

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## Centrelink/Family Assistance

The following is a brief description of the various Social Security and Family Assistance benefits available. This is not an exhaustive list, so individuals should seek advice on the benefits they think they might be eligible for.

Payment	General explanation
Family Tax Benefit part A	Not subject to assets test
	Income test applies unless recipient or partner is also in recipient of Centrelink/DVA Payments
	Paid to parent, guardian or approved care organisation. Must have a dependent child aged under 19 or qualifying dependent full-time student aged 16-19. The child also needs to meet immunisation requirements and Healthy Start for School requirements, (dependant must not be in receipt of Centrelink payments and the child or student's income must be less than a certain amount)
	May also include Newborn Upfront & Newborn supplement, Multiple Birth Allowance, Rent Assistance and Health Care Card
Family Tax Benefit Part B	Not subject to assets test
	For two parent families, the higher income earner can earn \$124,327 or less per annum. If so, the lower income earner can earn up to \$7,154 per annum before the maximum rate reduces by 20 cents for each dollar of income earned over \$7,154.
	Partnered parent or partnered carer families may get FTB Part B if there is one main income and care for a dependent child, and if the youngest child is younger than 13.
	For single parent families, up to \$124,327 per annum can be earned to receive maximum rate. If income is over \$124,327 FTB part b is not payable.
	For single parent families or a grandparent carer and care for a dependent, you can get FTB Part B up until the end of the calendar year your youngest child turns 18. If this child is between 16 and 18, they must meet study requirements.

	Family must have either a dependent child under age 16 or qualifying dependent full-time student up to age 18 who is not in receipt of Centrelink payments																																								
Parenting Payment	Subject to an income and assets test																																								
	Can be paid to only one member of a couple																																								
	If single, the parent, grandparent, or foster, carer must care for at least one child under 14 years of age																																								
	If a couple, the parent, grandparent, or foster, carer must care for at least one child under 6 years of age																																								
	From 1 January 2013 those receiving the parenting payment on 1 July 2006, will no longer receive the payment when the youngest child turns 6 (for partnered recipients) and 8 (for single recipients).																																								
Pensions	General explanation																																								
Age Pension	<p>Paid to men and women who meet criteria below:</p> <p>Claimant must be of Age Pension age to be eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People born before 1 July 1955 have reached Age Pension age.</li> <li>• People born between 1 July 1955 and 31 December 1956 will be eligible at age 66½.</li> <li>• People born on or after 1 January 1957 will be eligible at age 67.</li> </ul>																																								
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	Other conditions apply (including residential requirements)	
<b>Pensions</b>	<b>General explanation</b>	
Pension Bonus Scheme	Closed to new entrants since 20 Sep 2009-eligible individuals must have registered before 1 March 2014	
	One-off payment paid to people who work and defer claiming the age pension for a minimum of 12 months after registration (maximum of 5 bonus years and cannot accrue any bonus after age 75)	
	Bonus is tax free and amount is based on length of deferral of pension, rate of pension payable and whether a person is partnered	
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	Can claim this bonus as well as the age pension when finally retired	
	Other conditions apply	
Disability Support Pension	Must be either permanently blind or have a physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment that is likely to persist for more than 2 years and stops you from working and meet certain criteria.	
	No income or assets test if permanently blind unless claiming Rent Assistance, received a compensation payment or being paid under an International Agreement and getting a foreign pension. If you are blind and have a partner, you must provide information on the partner if they are receiving income support payment, not permanently blind themselves, or permanently blind and getting rent assistance.	
	Paid to persons age 16 or over and under age pension age	
	Meet certain conditions as required by Centrelink to qualify for payment	
Work Bonus	First \$300 p/f from employment income is exempt from the income test	
	Can save an unused exempt amounts from work bonus up to a maximum of \$11,800 per annum	
	Pensioners over age pension age and receive an Age Pension, Carer Payment or Disability Support Pension are eligible	
Carer Payment	Paid to person providing constant care to another person needing care permanently or for an extended period (not required to live with or adjacent to person being cared for)	
	Cannot be paid if already in receipt of another income support payment	
	Receiver of care must: -have physical, intellectual or psychiatric disability OR -be a child with severe disability or medical condition OR	

	-be two or more children with disabilities OR -be an adult with a dependent child in their care.
	The receiver of care must be in receipt of Centrelink/DVA income support OR does not have a qualifying residence for pension OR meet the care receiver income and assets test limits (see Centrelink regarding this)
<b>Allowances</b>	<b>General explanation</b>
JobSeeker Allowance	JobSeeker Payment replaced Newstart Allowance when it stopped in March 2020. Paid to a person age 22 or over but under age pension age and looking for paid work
	Must be prepared to enter into an 'employment pathway plan' and meet activity test requirements
Partner Allowance	Paid to a member of a couple (partner must be in receipt of a qualifying pension, allowance, Austudy or ABSTUDY payment at time of claim) who is born on or after 1 July 1955
	No new grants from 20 September 2003
<b>Other benefits</b>	<b>General explanation</b>
These are other benefits that are paid by Centrelink. Please consult a Centrelink officer for more information on these benefits	Double Orphan Pension, Parental Leave Pay, Youth Allowance, Austudy Payment, Pensioner Education supplement , ABSTUDY Scheme, Assistance for isolated Children, Special benefit, Mobility Allowance, CDEP Participant Supplementary (CPS) and supplementary Benefits (add-ons), Remote Area Allowance, Crisis payment
<b>Concessions</b>	<b>General explanation</b>
Health Care Card	Must be below age pension age
	Issued every 6 months
	No assets test applies
	Automatically issued to persons in receipt of most Centrelink allowances and payments of Family Tax Benefit A
	May also be issued to other groups of people in certain circumstances
Pensioner Concession Card	Automatically issued to all persons in receipt of eligible DVA and Centrelink pensions, certain allowances (including if age 55 or over if for more than 9 months you've been receiving JobSeeker payment, parenting partnered payment, or Youth allowance as a jobseeker) and other qualifying persons
	May be retained for a short time in certain cases where a person loses qualification to the relevant Centrelink payment
Commonwealth Seniors	Targeted at self-funded retirees who do not qualify for the age pension because of

Health Card( CSHC)	assets or income levels
	Need to meet income test: - have an annual adjusted taxable income of less than \$101,105 for singles, \$161,768 for couples (combined income), or - \$202,210 (combined income), for couple separated by illness, respite care or jail; - add \$639.60 to these amounts for each child in your care; - do not qualify for a Centrelink pension or DVA Service Pension
	Other conditions also apply
	No assets test applicable
Pension Supplement and Clean Energy Supplement	Paid to eligible recipients of certain Centrelink benefits (including age pension and disability support pension)
Energy Supplement	You can get it if you live in Australia and get either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an income support payment</li> <li>• ABSTUDY Living Allowance.</li> </ul> You might get it, if you became eligible for either of these on or before 19 September 2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Tax Benefit</li> <li>• Commonwealth Seniors Health Card</li> </ul>
Carer Supplement	Paid to carer Allowance and Carer payment recipients
Rent Assistance	Paid to qualifying recipients who are paying private rent, i.e. not paying rent to a government housing authority
	If paid to a couple both in receipt of a qualifying payment, the rent assistance is shared
	Not paid to single persons with no dependants and living with parent or guardian
	Paid to families with dependant children, who get more than the base rate of Family Tax Benefit
	Rental verification is required

### Centrelink means testing: the income and assets tests

Centrelink determines eligibility for benefits by assessment of income and assets against preset figures. To keep up to date with the rising costs and values of assets, these figures are indexed on a quarterly basis. The figures used in this document are valid as at 1 July 2026.

Should you have received this after this time period, the following figures may be slightly different and will not give you an accurate depiction of your entitlements. It is therefore strongly advised that you contact your Centrelink officer, Financial Planner, or go to [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au) and follow the links.