

# 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 receipt 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 (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 Large Family 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 \$104,432 or less per annum. If so, the lower income earner can earn up to \$6,059 per annum before the maximum rate reduces by 20 cents for each dollar of income earned over \$6,059
	Partnered parent or partnered carer families can get FTB Part B if the youngest child is younger than 13.
	For single parent families, up to \$104,432 per annum can be earned to receive maximum rate. If income is over \$104,432 FTB part b is not payable
	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 be in secondary school full-time.

	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 8 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	Paid to men and women who meet criteria below:																												
	For males, age pension age is currently 65. However, this will increase to age 67 by 2023 starting from 1 July 2017 and will depend on when the individual was born. Age pension age for males is shown in the table below.																												
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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 and meet certain criteria	
	No income or assets test if permanently blind	
	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 \$7,800 per annum	
	Pensioners over age pension age 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)	

Allowances	General explanation
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
Other benefits	General explanation
These are other benefits that are paid by Centrelink. Please consult a Centrelink officer for more information on these benefits	Double Orphan Pension, Wife pension, Bereavement allowance, Widow B Pension, Youth Allowance, Austudy Payment, Pensioner Education supplement , ABSTUDY Scheme, Assistance for isolated Children, Sickness allowance, Widow Allowance, Special benefit, Mobility Allowance, CDEP Participant Supplementary (CPS) and supplementary Benefits (add-ons), Remote Area Allowance, Crisis payment
Concessions	General explanation
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 60 or over) 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 Health Card( CSHC)	Targeted at self-funded retirees who do not qualify for the age pension because of assets or income levels
	Need to meet income test: - have an annual adjusted taxable income of less than \$57,761 for singles, \$92,416 for couples (combined income), or - \$115,522 (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
Seniors Supplement	Paid to eligible CHSC holders
Pension Supplement and Clean Energy Supplement	Paid to eligible recipients of certain Centrelink benefits (including age pension and disability support pension)
Carer Supplement	Paid to carer Allowance and Carer payment recipients
Rent Assistance	Paid to qualifying recipients who are paying private rent, ie 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 19 of September 2022.

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.