Centrelink.

Strategy Information Flyer

With any financial plan, it is necessary to take into account any Centrelink and Department of Veterans' Affairs benefits that you may be eligible to receive. There are many Centrelink benefits, read below for further information on the different types of benefits available.

Age Pension.

The Age Pension is a government support payment which assists Australian residents in achieving an adequate level of income when they reach Age Pension age. The amount payable is based on your age, homeownership and marital status as well as the income and assets tests.

A basic requirement for social security pensions is that a person meets the residential qualifications by being:

- In Australia at the time of applying for a payment; and
- An Australian resident for more than ten years with at least five years of continuous residence (noting exceptions may apply for refugees, some widows and those living and working in overseas countries that have an agreement with Australia);

To qualify for the Age Pension, the following requirements must be met:

- Satisfy the residential qualifications; and
- You must be of Age Pension age. Age Pension age for both men and women is 67.

Income and assets.

The amount of Age Pension you receive depends on both your income and assets. The rate of Age Pension payment is calculated under both the Income and Assets tests. The test that results in the lower rate of pension (or nil rate) will apply.

Under the income test, income from all sources is considered. The Centrelink income test formula is applied to determine a rate of payment. The payment is reduced progressively if your income exceeds the thresholds set by the government which are currently $226 per fortnight for singles and $396 per fortnight combined for couples. The pension reduces by 50 cents for each dollar (single person) or 25 cents for each dollar (for each member of a couple) of assessable income in excess of these income thresholds.

Under the Assets test, a person may own a certain level of assessable assets before their pension is reduced. The pension reduces by $3.00 per fortnight for each $1,000 of assessable assets in excess of the full pension asset thresholds. The value of a person's home is an exempt asset.

The full pension asset thresholds at 20 September 2026 are:

Status	Homeowner	Non-homeowner
Single	$333,000	$600,000
Couple combined	$499,000	$766,000

Payment rates.

If you are	The maximum fortnightly payment is
Single	$1,237.70
Partnered (combined)	$1,866.00

If you qualify for the Age Pension, you may be entitled to other payments and benefits, which include:

- Pensioner Concession Card;
- Rent Assistance;
- Remote Area Allowance.

Disability Support Pension (DSP).

You may be eligible for the DSP if you have a physical, intellectual or psychiatric condition that stops you from working or being retrained for work within the next two years, or if you are permanently blind and meet certain eligibility requirements.

To assess your eligibility for the DSP, Centrelink usually requires a report from your treating doctor or specialist on your disability, injury or illness. You may also need to undertake a job capacity assessment. A job capacity assessment is a way of finding out whether you can work, how much work you can do, and how much help you need to find and keep a job.

The payment amount you will receive from the pension depends on both your income and your assets.

If you are receiving the DSP because you are permanently blind, you may not have your income or assets tested, except for any rent assistance you may claim.

If you get workers compensation or third-party damages, this may affect your payment.

How much is payable?

The rate of payment varies according to the person's age and family situation. If the person is over 21 years of age, the maximum payment is equivalent to the Age Pension (currently $1,237.70 per fortnight for a single). If the person is under 21 years of age, the maximum entitlement is less than the Age Pension.

The Age Pension income and asset tests apply, and the DSP is not taxable where the client is under Age Pension age.

Job Capacity Assessment (JCA)

The JCA is a comprehensive assessment of an individual's ability to work. The assessment involves the identification of any barriers to employment and any assistance that may be required to help them overcome those barriers.

For people with medical conditions or disabilities, the assessment also identifies their current and future work capacity. Information provided by individuals will be used by a job capacity assessor to complete this assessment, to assist in determining the appropriate type and level of support that the individual requires.

Carer Payment.

The Carer Payment provides financial support to those who give constant care to someone who has a severe disability, illness, or an adult who is frail aged.

Generally, to be eligible for a Carer Payment you must:

- be an Australian resident
- care for someone who is an Australian resident
- care for one or more people who have care need scores high enough on the assessment tools used for an adult or child
- care for someone who'll have these needs for at least 6 months
- meet the pension income and assets test limits.

It is not necessary for the carer to live with the disabled person. The person being cared for needs to receive a pension or benefit, or:

- Be ineligible only because they have not lived in Australian long enough; and
- Meet special income and assets test limits.

The carer cannot claim the Carer Payment in addition to another social security pension or benefit. However, Carer Allowance may be payable.

The Carer Payment is paid at the pension rate and is also subject to the pension income and assets tests. A carer can retain the Carer Payment where they take up to 63 days each calendar year as respite. The Carer Payment is not taxable if the carer and the person being cared for are under the Age Pension age, and the person being cared for is receiving a non-taxable pension.

Carer Allowance.

The Carer Allowance is paid to a person who provides daily care for either an adult or a child who is frail, chronically ill or disabled and being nursed at home. Carers are not required to reside in the same house as the person they care for, to receive this allowance.

Eligibility for Carer Allowance

To be eligible for Carer Allowance, carers must:

- Provide additional daily care and attention to a person with a disability or medical condition or someone who is frail aged, and
- Meet the residence requirements.

A carer who cares for a child under 16 years who receives a Carer Payment, generally receives the Carer Allowance automatically. In other cases, a claim is required.

A carer may be eligible for the Carer Allowance for more than one person in their care.

Carer Allowance is only income tested, not asset tested. The income test is a family income limit of $250,000 p.a.

A Carer Supplement each July may also be payable for $600 per person being cared for. This payment is not income or asset tested.

As at 20 September 2026, the Carer Allowance rate of payment is $162.60 per fortnight and this payment is non-taxable.

JobSeeker Payment

JobSeeker Payment provides help to those between 22 and Age Pension age who are looking for work or can't do their usual work due to temporary sickness or injury.

Eligibility rules

The rules you need to meet to qualify for JobSeeker Payment include:

- you're between 22 and Age Pension age
- you meet residence rules
- you meet the income and assets tests.
- you are unemployed and looking for work or you are sick or injured and are unable to do your usual work or study

Mutual obligation requirements

The mutual obligation requirements are compulsory if you are receiving JobSeeker Payment.

This means if you're a job seeker you must:

- do all the tasks and activities listed in your Job Plan
- go to appointments with your employment services provider
- complete and report your job searches
- go to all job interviews
- accept any offer of suitable paid work
- not leave a job, training course or program without a valid reason.

Income and assets

The amount of JobSeeker Payment you get depends on both you and your partner's (if you have one) income and assets.

For the maximum payment (assuming no dependants), your income must be no more than $150 per fortnight. Income between $150 and $256 per fortnight will reduce your payment by 50 cents in the dollar and income over $256 per fortnight will reduce your payment by 60 cents in the dollar.

Your JobSeeker Payment will cease if your assets are more than the following amounts:

Status	Homeowner	Non-homeowner
Single	$333,000	$600,000
Couple combined	$499,000	$766,000
One partner eligible, combined assets	$499,000	$766,000

Generally, an asset is any property or possession you own excluding the value of your home if you are a homeowner.

Payment rates

If you are	The maximum fortnightly payment is
Single (no children)	$833.70
Single (with a dependent child)	$892.80
Partnered	$763.00

Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA).

The DVA pays two types of pensions – Service Pension and compensation payments. Of the compensation payments, the most common types are the Disability Pension and War Widow/er Pension.

Service Pension

To qualify for a Service Pension, an Australian veteran must have qualifying service. Some Commonwealth and Allied Veterans who served with Australian forces may also be eligible. Generally, they need to have served in the armed forces in areas where they were in danger from hostile forces.

Age Service Pension

Eligibility for the Age Service Pension is similar to the Centrelink Age Pension. It is income and asset tested in the same manner with similar payment rates, income free areas and asset limits. As with the Age Pension, Age Service Pension is taxable, and pensioners can claim the pensioner or senior Australian tax offset.

The pension age for a male or female veteran who has qualifying service and the qualifying age for a male or female partner is 60 years.

Invalidity Service Pension

This pension is for people who have completed service, are under the Age Service Pension age and, who have received an injury which is not due to war or defence service. This payment is income and asset tested. If incapacitated due to war or defence service, then a Disability Pension may be paid.

Partner Service Pension

Partner Service Pension is designed to provide income to partners, former partners, or widow/ers of a veteran with qualifying service.

Eligibility is dependent on various factors such as financial dependants, the type of benefit the veteran receives and the rate at which the benefit is paid.

How much is payable?

The amount payable for both the Age Service and Invalidity Service Pensions is based on your age, homeownership and marital status as well as the income and assets tests. As of 20 September 2026, the maximum rate of pension (including supplements) for a single is $1,237.70 per fortnight, and a couple is $1,866.00 combined per fortnight.

The Age Service Pension is taxable, and the pensioner or senior Australian tax offset may be claimed.

DVA Disability Pensions.

A DVA Disability Pension is paid to a veteran, with qualifying service, who has an injury or disease because of war. This pension is not taxable and is not subject to an income test or assets test. There are four rates used for the DVA Disability Pension. The most common types are outlined below.

General rate

The general rate is the basic Disability Pension. It is paid in multiples of 5% up to a 100% pension. The pension is assessed on the overall incapacity caused by accepted disabilities.

Special rate

Often better known as the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Pension, the special rate is payable to a veteran who is receiving or is entitled to receive, a general rate of at least 70%, and as a result of accepted disabilities alone, is:

- Incapable of undertaking remunerative work for periods in excess of eight hours per week; and
- prevented from continuing to do the type of work the person was doing, and as a result, suffering a loss of salary or wages, or of earnings on their own account, that they would be suffering if free of that incapacity.

DVA War Widow Pension

To be granted this type of pension, you must have been the spouse of an eligible veteran immediately before the veteran died.

The eligible veteran must have:

- Had death determined as war-caused or defence-caused;
- Died as a result of an injury or disease accepted as war-caused or defence-caused;
- Been in receipt of a Disability Pension at the special rate;
- Been in receipt of an extreme disablement adjustment; or
- Been an Australian prisoner of war.

War Widow Pension is not assets or income tested. Pension payments are not taxable.

Benefit	Amount (per fortnight)
Total War Widows and Widower's Pension	$1,261.60

Income Support Supplement (ISS)

War widows or widowers who have limited means to support themselves may also be entitled to receive an ISS. To be eligible for ISS, a person must:

- Be a war widow or widower;
- Be an Australian resident; and
- Be in Australia at the time of lodging the claim.

Concession cards

You may be entitled to receive a White Card (for specific conditions related to war service) or a Gold Card (over 70 years and other specific eligibility requirements).

Parenting Payment.

Eligibility

Parenting payment is paid to the principal carer of a child. Only one parent or guardian can receive the payment. You may qualify for parenting payment as a parent, grandparent, or foster carer if:

- You are single and care for at least one child aged less than eight; or
- You have a partner and care for at least one child aged less than six; and
- The income and assets of both you and your partner (if you have one) are below certain limits;
- You meet residency requirements;
- You agree to have a job plan if you have mutual obligation requirements; and
- You meet mutual obligation requirements if needed.

Principal carer

A principal carer is someone responsible for the day to day care, welfare and development of a child under 16 years of age. Only one person at a time can be a principal carer of a child, and this is generally the person who provides the greater amount of day to day care, such as a parent or guardian. If you and your partner provide equal levels of care, either of you may nominate as the principal carer.

Mutual obligation requirements

Principal carers are required to meet part-time mutual obligation requirements. There is also more flexibility about your requirements to look for work.

Part-time requirements mean you need to look for suitable paid part-time work of at least 30 hours per fortnight or undertake other approved activities.

Part-time requirements apply to you if you are a principal carer and receive JobSeeker Payment, Youth Allowance, Special Benefit or Parenting Payment. You will need to be registered with an employment services provider and meet with them to negotiate a job plan.

If you are under 22 years of age and have not completed Year 12 or an equivalent qualification, you will need to undertake study or training for at least 30 hours per fortnight to receive Youth Allowance as a job seeker.

Income and assets

The amount of Parenting Payment you get depends on both you and your partner's (if you have one) income and assets.

The following thresholds are effective from 20 September 2026.

For maximum payment for a single parent (one child), your income must be no more than $232.60 per fortnight. Income over this amount reduces your payment by 40 cents in the dollar.

You can get a part payment if you earn less than $2,950.60 each fortnight. This figure increases if you have more than one eligible child.

Your payment will cease if your assets are more than the following amounts:

Status	Homeowner	Non-homeowner
Single	$333,000	$600,000
Couple combined	$499,000	$766,000
One partner eligible, combined assets	$499,000	$766,000

An asset is any property or possession you own either partly or wholly. It includes assets held outside Australia and debts owing to you. Your home is not included as an assessable asset.

Payment rates

The regular payment rates effective from 20 September 2026 are:

If you are	The maximum fortnightly payment is
Single	$1,087.20
Partnered	$763.00

Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A.

Eligibility

FTB Part A is paid for each child. The amount you get is based on your family's circumstances.

To be eligible for this benefit, you must care for a dependent child who:

- Is 0 to 15 years of age; or
- 16 to 19 years of age; and
- Is undertaking full-time education or training in an approved course leading towards a year 12 or equivalent qualification; and
- Has an acceptable study load; or

- Has been granted an exemption from education or training requirements.

If you are eligible for FTB Part A for a dependent child who is 16 to 19 years of age, it can be paid until the end of the calendar year that they turn 19 years of age as long as they are in full-time secondary study. You must also satisfy an income test, meet residency requirements and care for the child at least 35% of the time. If you are separated from the child's other parent, you will need to take reasonable steps to obtain child support. Otherwise, you may only be eligible for the base rate of FTB Part A.

Income test for FTB Part A

Income $69,131 or less

If you or your partner get an income support payment or your family's adjusted taxable income is $69,131 or less, you may get the maximum rate of FTB Part A.

Income between $69,131 and $123,078

Centrelink uses an income test if your family's adjusted taxable income is between $69,131 and $123,078.

This test reduces your FTB Part A by 20 cents for each dollar of income you have over $69,131. Your payment will stop reducing when it reaches the base rate of FTB Part A.

Income over $123,078

If your family's adjusted taxable income is over $123,078, the rate of your FTB Part A reduces by 30 cents for each dollar of income you have over $123,078.

If your family's income is close to the annual income limit, check your eligibility after the end of the financial year once you know your family's actual income.

Payment Rates

The base rate of FTB Part A you can get for each child is $75.60 per fortnight.

For each child aged	Maximum rate per fortnight
0 to 12 years of age	$235.48
13 to 15 years of age	$306.46
16 to 19 years of age, who meets the study requirements	$306.46
0 to 19 years of age in an approved care organisation	$75.60

The figures include the end of year FTB Part A supplement.

FTB Part A Supplement

This is a yearly payment of up to $970.90 for each eligible child. How much you get depends on:

- How many children you have in your care;
- If you share care;
- Your family's income;
- The number of days you were eligible for FTB Part A; and
- Your child needs to meet the immunisation and healthy start for school (if applicable) requirements.

FTB Part A Supplement income test

To be eligible for the supplement, your family's adjusted taxable income must be $80,000 or less.

The FTB Part A Supplement income test also applies if you are receiving an income support payment.

If eligible, Centrelink will pay FTB Part A Supplement after Centrelink balance your payments at the end of the financial year.

Maintenance Income Test

Generally, the more child support you get, or are entitled to get, the less FTB you can get. Centrelink use the Maintenance Income Test to work this out. Child support can only reduce your FTB Part A payment to the base rate as the minimum payment you will receive.

This test may apply if:

- You get more than the base rate of FTB Part A; and
- You or your partner get, or are entitled to get, child support or spousal maintenance.

Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part B.

Eligibility

FTB Part B gives extra assistance to:

- Single parents;
- Non-parent carers such as grandparents, great grandparents; and
- Couples with one primary income.

An example of this may be where one parent stays at home to care for a child full time or balances some paid work with caring for a child. This payment is income tested.

If you are a member of a couple, you may be eligible for FTB Part B if you care for a dependent child 12 years of age or younger at least 35% of the time.

If you are a single parent, grandparent or great grandparent carer, you may be eligible for FTB Part B if you care for a child at least 35% of the time and the child is:

- Younger than 16 years of age; or
- A full-time secondary student, up until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 18 years of age.

Home-schooling for children 16 to 19 years of age does not satisfy study requirements for FTB.

The rate of FTB Part B is based on an income test. You also need to meet residency requirements.

Neither you nor your partner can receive FTB Part B during your paid parental leave period, but it may be paid after your paid parental leave period ends.

Income test for FTB Part B

FTB Part B is for single parents and couples where the primary earner has an adjusted taxable income of $124,327 or less per year.

Payment rates

The maximum rate per family each fortnight is:

For each child aged	Maximum rate per fortnight
0 to 4 years of age	$200.34
5 to 18 years of age	$139.86

FTB Part B Supplement

This is a yearly payment of up to $478.15 per family. How much you get depends on:

- If you share care;
- Your family's income; and
- The number of days you were eligible for FTB Part B.

Pensioner Concession Card (PCC).

The PCC is issued to all recipients of Centrelink pensions (including the Age Pension and DSP), as well as recipients of some Centrelink allowances.

Holders of the PCC receive the following concessions:

- Bulk billing for doctor appointments – at your doctors' discretion;
- Concessional rates on pharmaceutical benefits;
- Some Australia Post concessions; and
- Some state/territory and local government concessions, which vary from state to state but may include concessions for:
- Public transport;
- Municipal property and water rates;
- Energy (gas / electricity) bills; and
- Motor vehicle registration.

Rent Assistance.

You can get Rent Assistance if you:

- Pay rent;
- Are getting certain payments from Centrelink and getting more than the base rate of FTB;
- Paying ongoing fees in some retirement village complexes;
- Pay for board and lodging; or
- Pay for site or mooring fees if your main home is a caravan, relocatable home or a boat.

Rent Assistance rates (no dependent children)

Family situation	Your fortnightly rent is at least	To get the maximum payment, your fortnightly rent is at least	The maximum fortnightly payment is
Single	$157.80	$456.20	$223.80
Single, sharer	$157.80	$356.74	$149.20
Couple, combined	$255.80	$537.14	$211.00

Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC).

The CSHC provides non-pensioners of Age Pension age access to concessionally priced prescription medicines provided through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

To qualify, you must:

- Be an Australian resident, living in Australia;
- Have reached Age Pension age, but do not qualify for payments from Centrelink or DVA; and
- Meet an income test.

Income test

The income test looks at both your adjusted taxable income and a deemed amount from your account-based pension income streams.

To pass the income test, you need to have an annual adjusted taxable income of less than the table below.

Family situation	Adjusted taxable income limit
Single	$105,048 per annum
Couples (combined)	$168,076 per annum
Couples, illness, respite care or prison separated (combined)	$210,096 per annum

Please Note: The income limit is increased by $639.60 for each dependent child you care for.

The CSHC is not assets tested.

Centrelink will also look at your account-based income streams as part of the income test. Generally, the balance will be subject to deeming, which assumes the investments earn a specific rate of income.

Adjusted taxable income includes:

- Taxable income;
- Reportable super contributions;
- Certain tax free pensions or benefits
- Total net investment loss;
- Foreign income;
- Tax exempt foreign income; or
- Reportable fringe benefits.

You will be asked to complete an income estimate for the year in which you apply.

Concessions and discounts for CSHC

A CSHC provides discounts on PBS prescription medicines. You may also need to show your Medicare card when lodging your prescription at the pharmacy.

A cardholder can get:

- Cheaper medicine under the PBS;
- Bulk billed doctor appointments, at the discretion of the doctor;

- A bigger refund for medical costs when you reach the Medicare Safety Net;
- Discount on the following subject to what's being offered by your local council or state;
- Electricity and gas bills;
- Property and water rates;
- Health care costs, including ambulance, dental and eye care; and
- Public transport care.

Gifting.

Gifting is when you give away assets or transfer them for less than their market value. You can give away money, other assets or income to any value you choose at any time. Before you make a gift, you should carefully consider the effect it may have on your financial security.

Gifting may affect your Centrelink payment.

The rate of income support payment you receive may be affected if your assets are given away, and the amount assessed as gifted is more than the allowable gifting amount. Giving away income can affect your payments for an indefinite period.

You must tell Centrelink about any gifts or transfers within 14 days of when they have occurred.

Allowable gifting amount

You have a gifting free area of $10,000 per financial year, limited to $30,000 over five financial years.

If the total of gifts made in a financial year exceeds $10,000, the excess will be assessed as a deprived asset. This is called the $10,000 rule.

A maximum of $30,000 can be gifted over a rolling period of five financial years but must not exceed $10,000 in any one year to avoid deprivation.

If you gift more than the allowable amount

Any gift or gifts with a total value greater than the allowable amounts will be assessed as a deprived asset for five years from the date of the gift and will be subject to the income deeming provisions. This may change if a gift is returned.

Deeming rules.

The deeming rules assume your financial assets are earning a certain amount of income, regardless of the income they actually earn.

Deeming is used to calculate income for pension, benefit and allowance payments. As FTB is based on taxable income, it is not affected by deeming.

Deeming rates

From 20 September 2026, if you are single and getting either a pension or allowance, the first $66,800 of your financial investments is deemed to earn income at 1.75% per annum, and any amount over that is deemed to earn income at 3.75% per annum.

If you are a member of a couple:

- If at least one of you is getting a pension, the first $110,600 of your and your partner's financial investments is deemed to earn income at 1.75% per annum, and any amount over that is deemed to earn income at 3.75% per annum; or
- If neither of you is getting a pension, the first $55,300 for each of your share of financial investments is deemed to earn income at 1.75% per annum, and any amount over that is deemed to earn income at 3.75% per annum.



This document was prepared by Enzumo Pty Ltd. It contains general information about the benefits, costs and risks associated with certain product classes and strategies. It is designed for use in conjunction with a Statement of Advice that takes into account the circumstances and objectives of an individual. Before committing to purchase or sell a financial product, you should ensure that you have obtained an individual Statement of Advice. As legislation may change, you should ensure you have the most recent version of this document.

Version: 20 September 2026