



Support for new parents on leave from work

Help if you are a parent taking time off work to care for a newborn or recently adopted child.

Parental Leave Pay

Helps working parents who take time off work to be the primary carer of a new child.

If eligible, you can get up to 18 weeks pay at the rate of the National Minimum Wage. Parental Leave Pay is taxable. It is also counted in the income test if you get an income support payment.

Who can get it?

You may be eligible for Parental Leave Pay if you:

- are the primary carer of a newborn or newly adopted child
- earned less than \$150,000 in the last financial year
- are on leave or not working during your Parental Leave Pay period
- have worked 10 months of the 13 months before the birth or adoption of your child, and
- meet residence rules.

If you are not eligible for Parental Leave Pay, you may be eligible for Newborn Upfront Payment and Newborn Supplement if you are receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A.

When you can get it

You nominate a start date in your claim. Your start date cannot be before the date of birth or adoption.

You can nominate the date of birth or adoption as the start date. To do this, you need to submit your claim and provide proof of birth or adoption within 4 weeks after the birth or adoption.

If you submit your claim or provide proof of birth or adoption more than 4 weeks after the birth or adoption, the start date can only be from the date you submitted your claim.

You can also nominate a later start date.

To get the full 18 weeks of Parental Leave Pay, you need to nominate a start date that is within 34 weeks of your child's birth or adoption.

You will get your first payment after your nominated start date.

How you will get Parental Leave Pay

Your Parental Leave Pay will be paid to you by your employer or us depending on your circumstances.

If your employer pays you, you will get your pay in your usual pay cycle. We will work this out with your employer.

If you do not get your Parental Leave Pay from your employer, or if you are self-employed, we will pay you directly every fortnight.



Dad and Partner Pay

Dad and Partner Pay is a one-off payment if you are a dad or partner on unpaid leave from work to help care for your new child.

If you are eligible, you can get up to 2 weeks pay at the rate of the National Minimum Wage.

Dad and Partner Pay is taxable.

Who can get it?

You may be able to get Dad and Partner Pay if you are the:

- biological father of the child
- partner of the birth mother
- adoptive parent or partner of an adoptive parent, or
- parent or partner of a child born of a surrogacy agreement

And you:

- provide care for a newborn or newly adopted child
- earned less than \$150,000 in the last financial year
- are not working or not taking paid leave during your Dad and Partner Pay period
- have done enough work to meet the work test, and
- meet residence rules.

When you can get Dad and Partner Pay

You can get Dad and Partner Pay any time within 52 weeks of your child's birth or adoption.

How will you get Dad and Partner Pay?

We will pay you directly into your nominated bank account in one payment.

Work test for Parental Leave Pay and Dad and Partner Pay

To get Parental Leave Pay or Dad and Partner Pay, you need to have worked for at least 330 hours, or around 1 day a week in 10 months of the 13-month period:

- before the birth or adoption of your child, for Parental Leave Pay, or
- before the date your Dad and Partner Pay period starts.

If your child's birth or adoption is before 1 January 2020, you cannot have more than an 8 week gap between each work day.

If your child's birth or adoption is on or after 1 January 2020, you cannot have more than a 12 week gap between each work day.

Some exceptions apply for premature birth and pregnancy related illness and complications.

There is a new Dangerous Jobs (dangerous jobs) provision if your child's birth or adoption is on or after 1 January 2020. This will apply if you had to stop work because there was a risk to your pregnancy. You will still need to meet the work test to get Parental Leave Pay.

How to claim Parental Leave Pay or Dad and Partner Pay

1. Get a Customer Reference Number (CRN)

To get a CRN, visit your nearest service centre to confirm your identity in person.

If you already have a CRN and have confirmed your identity, use your CRN to link your Centrelink online account to your myGov account.

2. Lodge your claim by using your Centrelink online account via myGov

You can do this up to 3 months before your child's expected date of birth or adoption.

3. Give us proof of your child's birth or adoption

You will get a Newborn Child Declaration form from your hospital or midwife. Upload this form online as soon as possible. If you do not, you cannot be back paid to the date of birth or adoption.

You will also need to register the birth with the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registry in your state or territory.

Workplace leave entitlements

Parental Leave Pay and Dad and Partner Pay will not change any of your workplace leave entitlements.

To arrange leave, you will need to talk to your employer. You should try to do this at least 10 weeks before you intend to take leave.

If you have worked continuously for your employer for 12 months or more, you may be also be entitled to unpaid parental leave.

To learn more about your workplace leave entitlements:

- go to fairwork.gov.au
- call the Fair Work Ombudsman on **131 394**, or
- go to supportingworkingparents.gov.au

For more information

- go to humanservices.gov.au/parentalleavepay or humanservices.gov.au/dadandpartnerpay for more information in English
- go to humanservices.gov.au/yourlanguage where you can read, listen to or watch information in your language
- call **131 202** to speak with us in your language about Centrelink payments and services
- call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on **131 450** to speak with us in your language about Medicare and Child Support payments and services
- visit a service centre.

Note: calls from your home phone to '13' numbers from anywhere in Australia are charged at a fixed rate. That rate may vary from the price of a local call and may also vary between telephone service providers. Calls to '1800' numbers from your home phone are free. Calls from public and mobile phones may be timed and charged at a higher rate.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is intended only as a guide to payments and services. It is your responsibility to decide if you wish to apply for a payment and to make an application with regard to your particular circumstances.