













# 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

This payment helps parents 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. We also count it in the income test if you get an income support payment, such as Parenting Payment. This means if you get Parental Leave Pay your income support payment may reduce or stop.

## Who can get it?

You may get 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
- have worked 10 of the 13 months before the birth or adoption of your child
- meet residence rules.

To get the full 18 weeks of Parental Leave Pay you must be on leave or not working during your Paid Parental Leave period.

If you cannot get Parental Leave Pay, you may get Newborn Upfront Payment and Newborn Supplement. You may get this if you are getting Family Tax Benefit Part A.

## When you can get it

When you claim you will choose a start date. 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 do both of the following within 4 weeks after the birth or adoption:

- submit your claim
- provide proof of birth or adoption.

If you do not, your 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 claim and nominate a start date. You need to do this no more than:

- 34 weeks after the birth or adoption of a child, if this is before 1 July 2020
- 40 weeks after the birth or adoption of a child, if this is on or after 1 July 2020.

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

## How you will get Parental Leave Pay

Parental Leave Pay is paid for up to 18 weeks. This is 90 payable days.

If your child's birth or adoption is before 1 July 2020, your Paid Parental Leave period will be a single continuous block of up to 18 weeks.

If your child's birth or adoption is on or after 1 July 2020, your Parental Leave Pay will include both:

- a continuous Paid Parental Leave period of up to 12 weeks which is 60 payable days
- 30 Flexible Paid Parental Leave days.
- If your child's birth or adoption is on or after 1 July 2020, you can use your Flexible Paid Parental Leave days in several ways. You can:
  - connect them to your Paid Parental Leave period
  - access them later at a time that suits you
  - give them to another person such as your partner, to use on days that they have care of the child.

You can get Flexible Paid Parental Leave on days that you:

- are caring for your child
- are on leave or not working
- meet residence rules.

Your employer or we will pay your Parental Leave Pay, 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.

We can pay them within 104 weeks of your child's birth or adoption. We will pay any Flexible Paid Parental Leave days that you have not connected to your Paid Parental Leave period.

## Dad and Partner Pay

Dad and Partner Pay is a payment for up to 2 weeks. It helps fathers or partners take time off work to care for their new child.

If you are eligible, you can get up to 2 weeks pay at the rate of the National Minimum Wage. We will pay you directly into your nominated bank account in one payment. Dad and Partner Pay is taxable.

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

## Who can get it?

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

- biological father of the child
- partner of the birth mother
- adoptive parent or partner of an adoptive parent
- person caring for a child born of a surrogacy agreement.

You also need to meet all of the following:

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

- meet residence rules.

## Work test for Parental Leave Pay and Dad and Partner Pay

To get Parental Leave Pay or Dad and Partner Pay, you need to meet the work test. You must have worked for at least 330 hours, around 1 day a week. You need to have worked these hours in 10 of the 13 months either:

- before the birth or adoption of your child, for Parental Leave Pay
- 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.

For Parental Leave Pay there is a Dangerous Jobs provision. This is if your child's birth or adoption is on or after 1 January 2020. It 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

### 4. Get a Customer Reference Number (CRN)

You will need to establish your identity to get a CRN. If you already have one and have confirmed your identity, use it to link your Centrelink online account to your myGov account.

### 5. Lodge your claim by using your Centrelink online account through myGov

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

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

You will need to submit proof of your child's birth or adoption within 4 weeks of them coming into your care. If you do not, you cannot be paid from their date of birth or adoption.

After your child's birth you will get a Newborn Child Declaration form from your hospital or midwife. You can upload this form online.

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.

You may have an entitlement to unpaid parental leave. This is if you have worked continuously for your employer for 12 months or more.

To learn more about your workplace leave entitlements in English:

- go to [fairwork.gov.au](http://fairwork.gov.au)
- call the Fair Work Ombudsman on **131 394**
- go to [supportingworkingparents.humanrights.gov.au](http://supportingworkingparents.humanrights.gov.au)



## For more information

- Call your regular payment line and let us know you need an interpreter. We will arrange one for free. For a list of our phone numbers, go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/phoneus](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/phoneus)
- 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.
- Go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/yourlanguage](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/yourlanguage) where you can read, listen to or watch information in your language.
- Go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/parentalleavepay](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/parentalleavepay) or [servicesaustralia.gov.au/dadandpartnerpay](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/dadandpartnerpay) for more information in English.
- 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.