



How the Financial Information Service can help

The Financial Information Service (FIS - Financial Information Service) provides free, independent and confidential education and information.

FIS is available to everyone, including people who are:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians
- from a culturally and linguistically diverse background (CALD), including migrants and refugees
- living in a rural or remote area
- young, including students starting work
- older and considering retirement or accessing aged care
- women returning to the workforce.

FIS can help you make informed decisions about your finances. We can also refer you to other services and groups that can help.

What FIS cannot do

- FIS Officers are not financial planners, advisers or counsellors.
- They will not tell you how to invest your money.
- They cannot deal with other agencies or businesses for you.
- They do not make decisions about your government payments.

How money works in Australia

FIS can help you understand how money works in Australia.

You can get information online or talk to a FIS Officer. They can show you how finances and government services work together and how you can improve your situation.

What FIS can do for you

- Explain the following and how they work together:
 - social security
 - tax
 - wages and salary
 - superannuation
 - budgeting
 - credit, loans and debt
 - investments, risks and returns.
- Help you understand how these can work for you and what your options are.

Taking control of your money when you start work

FIS can give you information about planning your financial future when you start or return to work.

You can get information online or talk to a FIS Officer. They can show you different ways to increase up your savings and achieve your money goals.

What FIS can do for you

- Help you understand:
 - how to budget and save money
 - how working affects your payments and benefits
 - superannuation and why it is important
 - how income tax is worked out
 - different types of loans and how to use credit well
 - different types of financial investments, risks and returns.

Making your lump sum payment work for you

FIS can help you understand your options when you get a lump sum. This can be an inheritance, a compensation payment or a redundancy.

You can get information online or talk to a FIS Officer. They can show you different ways to use your money to plan a more secure future.

What FIS can do for you

- Help you understand how different types of lump sum payments may affect Centrelink payments.
- Talk to you about the different options to use your lump sum including:
 - investing
 - superannuation
 - providing an income.

Planning to retire well

FIS can talk to you about your retirement options. FIS can help you no matter when you plan to retire, tomorrow or in 20 years.

You can get information online or talk to a FIS Officer. They can show you ways to plan a stronger financial future in retirement.

What FIS can do for you

- Help you understand different options to get your money working for you when you retire, like:
 - superannuation
 - income streams
 - annuities
 - allocated pensions.
- Explain how financial products work with government payments.
- Discuss your options for accommodation and downsizing.
- Discuss what to look for when choosing financial experts and how to use the information they give you.

Understanding aged care costs

FIS can help you understand your options to fund your aged care.

You can get information online or talk to a FIS Officer. They can explain how aged care costs are worked out. They can talk to you about home care, respite care and residential aged care costs.

What FIS can do for you

- Help you understand how the aged care system works.
- Explain the meaning of financial words used in aged care.
- Explain the aged care fees you can expect.
- Explain how aged care may affect your government payments, including the Age Pension.
- Talk to you about different options to pay for aged care based on your circumstances.
- Show you options if you are thinking about selling or transferring property.
- Help you understand your finances if your partner has died.

You can have someone with you when you speak to a FIS Officer. You can have an authorised representative act on your behalf.

For more information

- go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/fis for more information in English
- go to servicesaustralia.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.