













# If you are affected by coronavirus (COVID-19)

## JobKeeper Payment

You may be able to get JobKeeper Payment through your employer. Ask them if they have registered for this payment before you claim an income support payment from us. If they have and you are eligible, your employer will pay it to you.

If you are getting an income support payment and your employer starts paying you JobKeeper Payment, you must report that income to us. If you do not we will pay you too much and you will have a debt to pay back.

## If you need to apply for a Centrelink payment

We have made changes so it is easier for you to claim a payment. We have temporarily removed the waiting period for newly arrived residents to claim some of our payments. Use our payment guide to check which payment is right for you. Go to [servicessaustralia.gov.au/covid19](https://servicessaustralia.gov.au/covid19)

If you already have a Centrelink Customer Reference Number (CRN), you can claim online. You do not need to go to a service centre or call us. Go to [my.gov.au](https://my.gov.au) to make a claim for a Centrelink payment.

If you do not have a CRN, go to [my.gov.au](https://my.gov.au) to get one. You can establish your identity and get a CRN using your myGov account to start your claim. You do not need to visit a service centre.

For more information go to [servicessaustralia.gov.au/covid19](https://servicessaustralia.gov.au/covid19)

## Coronavirus Supplement

The **Coronavirus Supplement** is \$250 per fortnight until 31 December 2020. From 1 January 2021 it will be \$150 per fortnight.

You will get this supplement until 31 March 2021, as long as you get at least \$1 of any of these payments:

- JobSeeker Payment
- Widow Allowance
- Partner Allowance
- Youth Allowance
- Austudy
- ABSTUDY Living Allowance
- Parenting Payment
- Farm Household Allowance
- Special Benefit.

We will pay it automatically into your bank account as part of your usual payment.

## Economic Support Payments

The Economic Support Payment is an extra payment for people getting certain payments or concession cards from us. We paid 2 Economic Support Payments of \$750 to eligible customers in 2020.

We will pay 2 more Economic Support Payments of \$250 to those eligible in December 2020 and March 2021.

If you claim Family Tax Benefit (FTB) as a lump sum, you will get the payment with your lump sum. You are eligible if you get the following payments or concession cards from us:

- Age Pension
- Carer Allowance
- Carer Payment
- Commonwealth Seniors Health Card
- Disability Support Pension
- Double Orphan Pension
- Family Tax Benefit
- Pensioner Concession Card

We will pay you automatically, so you do not need to apply.

You will not get the payment if you get the Coronavirus Supplement.

### Department of Veterans' Affairs customers

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will pay you the Economic Support Payment, if you get an eligible DVA benefit. You can learn more at [dva.gov.au](https://dva.gov.au)

### Special Benefit

There are no changes to the residence and eligibility rules for Special Benefit, apart from the newly arrived resident's waiting period (NARWP). It has been removed for Special Benefit claims until 31 March 2021.

If you cannot get any other income support payment from us, and you are in severe financial hardship you may get Special Benefit.

You will need to meet one of the following to be eligible:

- you have not lived in Australia long enough to qualify for Age Pension or Disability Support Pension
- you hold an eligible temporary visa
- you are an Australian citizen or permanent resident under 16 years of age.

For more information go to [servicessaustralia.gov.au/specialbenefit](https://servicessaustralia.gov.au/specialbenefit)

### Crisis Payment—National Health Emergency

You or the person you are caring for may qualify for Crisis Payment if you meet all of the following:

- either of you are in quarantine or self-isolation due to coronavirus
- you meet the severe financial hardship criteria
- you meet the eligibility rules for an income support payment
- you are in Australia when you claim Crisis Payment.

For more information go to [servicessaustralia.gov.au/crisispayment](https://servicessaustralia.gov.au/crisispayment)

## Child Care Subsidy and Additional Child Care Subsidy

If your child cannot attend childcare, you should talk to your childcare service. You can get Child Care Subsidy for up to 42 absences per child each year for any reason. You should talk with your service about your options if your child cannot attend because of COVID-19.

### Updating your activity hours

The number of hours of Child Care Subsidy you can get each fortnight depends on the hours of activity you and your partner do. If your hours of recognised activity have changed, make sure you update this.

If your family is doing less activity because of COVID-19, you can apply for extra Child Care Subsidy hours. If eligible, you may get up to 100 hours per fortnight between 13 July 2020 and 4 April 2021.

## Temporary visa subclass holders

There are no changes to payments you can claim if you hold a temporary visa.

Temporary visa subclasses 060, 070, 309, 449, 785, 786, 790 and 820 may be eligible for:

- Crisis Payment
- Dad and Partner Pay
- Double Orphan Pension
- Family Tax Benefit
- Low Income Health Care Card
- Parental Leave Pay
- Special Benefit
- Stillborn Baby Payment.

For more information go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/visaholders](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/visaholders)

## Newly arrived resident's waiting period

We have temporarily removed the NARWP, and the qualifying residence period for Parenting Payment, until 31 March 2021. This means if you have recently arrived in Australia you do not have to wait to claim one of these payments:

- Austudy
- Farm Household Allowance
- JobSeeker Payment
- Parenting Payment
- Special Benefit
- Youth Allowance.

For more information go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/newresidentswaiting](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/newresidentswaiting)



## Seasonal work preclusion period

Seasonal work is work that is only available for part of the year. Due to coronavirus we have removed the seasonal work preclusion period until 31 March 2021 for:

- Austudy
- ABSTUDY
- Farm Household Allowance
- JobSeeker Payment
- Parenting Payment
- Special Benefit
- Youth Allowance.

For more information go to [servicessaustralia.gov.au/covid19](https://servicessaustralia.gov.au/covid19)

## Partner income test

If you get JobSeeker Payment, we have temporarily increased the amount your partner can earn before your payment will stop.

From 25 September 2020, your payment will reduce by 27 cents, instead of 25 cents, for every dollar your partner earns over \$1165 per fortnight. This amount may change if you get Pharmaceutical Allowance or Rent Assistance. If your income is less than \$300 per fortnight, your partner can earn up to \$3086.11 before your payment reduces to zero.

The increased partner income test does not apply to Status Resolution Support Services payment.

For more information about how much you can get and what your income and assets limits are go to [servicessaustralia.gov.au/jsp](https://servicessaustralia.gov.au/jsp)

## Income reporting

When we approve your claim for income support, you must tell us your and your partner's income. We cannot make your first payment until you do.

You must also report your and your partner's income to us each fortnight even it is \$0.

This is so we can pay you the right amount.

For more information go to [servicessaustralia.gov.au/incomereporting](https://servicessaustralia.gov.au/incomereporting)

## Mutual obligation requirements

There are things you must do to keep getting a payment. We call these mutual obligation or participation requirements. You may have them if you are getting one of these payments:

- JobSeeker Payment
- Parenting Payment
- Special Benefit
- Youth Allowance as a job seeker.

Check [servicessaustralia.gov.au/mutualobligation](https://servicessaustralia.gov.au/mutualobligation) or your myGov account for updates.

## Other support services that can help you

### Payment and Service Finder

Use the Payment and Service Finder to find support services in your local area. This can include counselling and mental health services.

For more information go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/servicefinder](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/servicefinder)

### Family and domestic violence

If you are affected by family and domestic violence, we can help. We provide information, support and referrals.

For more information go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/domesticviolence](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/domesticviolence)

### Social work services

Our social workers help people with short-term counselling, information and referrals to support services.

For more information go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/socialwork](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/socialwork)

### Financial Information Service

A free service to help you with financial matters.

For more information go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/fis](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/fis)

## For more information

- Call your regular payment line and let us know if 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/covid19](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/covid19) for more information in English.
- Go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/yourlanguage](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/yourlanguage) where you can read, listen to or watch information in your language.

Your phone provider may charge you a fixed rate for calls from your home phone to '13' numbers. This is from anywhere in Australia and the rate may vary depending on your phone provider. Calls to '1800' numbers from your home phone are free. Phone providers may time your call and charge a higher rate if you call from a public or mobile phone.

## Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is a guide to payments and services only, and is correct as of 26 November 2020. Please check our website for the most current information. It is your responsibility to decide if you wish to apply for a payment based on your particular circumstances.