



How to repay money you owe Centrelink

If you have been overpaid and have a Centrelink debt, we are here to help you repay it in a way that best suits your situation.

Your options

There are 2 main ways to repay money you owe. They are:

- in full by the due date
- over time, by setting up a payment arrangement with us or deductions from your regular payment.

Most people repay money over time.

The right option for you depends on your situation. When deciding how to repay the money, you will need to think of things like:

- your budget
- upcoming expenses
- any other debts you may have
- how long you want to be repaying the money.

Your Centrelink debts will not affect your credit rating. However, we may take action if you have not started repaying the money by the due date.

Your repayments

How you repay money will depend on whether or not you currently get a payment from us.

If you get a payment from us

From the date your debt is due, we will start deducting money from your regular payment. You do not need to do anything to set this up.

How much we deduct depends on which payment you get. For example, if you get an income support payment our standard deduction is 15%.

You can use the **Money You Owe** service in your Centrelink online account through myGov or Express Plus Centrelink mobile app to:

- see how much we are deducting
- change the amount we deduct.

You can also do this by calling your regular payment line.

At any time, you can make extra payments towards your debt.

If you no longer get a payment from us

You will need to pay the money in full or set up a payment arrangement with us by your due date. Most people set up a payment arrangement and pay it over time.

If you cannot set up a payment arrangement, please call us.

If you are setting up a payment arrangement, it needs to be done with us. This means you need to set it up either:

- online using the **Money You Owe** service
- by calling your regular payment line.

At any time, you can also make extra payments towards your debt. This could be a regular payment or a one-off payment.

If you are doing your tax return

If you owe us money, we may ask the Australian Taxation Office to help us get it back. We can ask them to withhold or give us some or all of your tax refund or available credit. If we do, we will send you a letter.

Your repayment methods

The easiest way to repay money is by using the **Money You Owe** service in your Centrelink online account through myGov or Express Plus Centrelink mobile app.

If you need help repaying money or setting up a payment arrangement, please call us.

The table below shows the different payment methods you can use.

Payment method	Instructions
Direct debit	Use the Money You Owe service or call us to set up automatic deductions from your bank account.
BPAY	<p>You can pay using BPAY by phone or internet banking.</p> <p>Our Biller code is 21915 and your BPAY reference number is on the letter we sent you.</p> <p>You may be able to make a BPAY payment from your credit card. However, your bank may charge you extra fees or interest. You should check this with your bank before making a payment this way.</p>
Australia Post	<p>You can pay in person at any Australia Post office or postal outlet. You can pay by EFTPOS, cash, cheque or money order.</p> <p>You will need your barcode from your letter or in your Money You Owe service. If you do not have a barcode, ask us for a payment card to make regular payments. To request a card call the Centrelink Debt Recovery Line on 1800 076 072.</p> <p>You can make a payment through Australia Post's POST Billpay service. Our Billpay code is 0802 and your POST Billpay reference number is in the letter we sent you.</p> <p>You can also pay over the phone by calling the Australia Post POST Billpay line on 131 816.</p>
Credit card	Use the Money You Owe service or call us to repay your debt using your Visa or Mastercard. Before using your credit card, please check with your bank if there are any extra fees and charges.

For more information

- 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** where you can read, listen to or watch information in your language.
- Go to **servicesaustralia.gov.au/debts** 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.

Centrelink phone numbers

Centrelink phone line	Phone number
Disability, Sickness and Carers (disability, sickness and carers)	132 717
Employment Services (employment services)	132 850
Families (families)	136 150
Farmer Assistance Hotline (farmer assistance)	132 316
Older Australians (older Australians)	132 300
Youth and Students (youth and students)	132 490
Centrelink Debt Recovery (debt repayments)	Freecall™ 1800 076 072
Services Australia Feedback and Complaints (feedback and complaints)	Freecall™ 1800 132 468
TTY* enquiries	Freecall™ 1800 810 586
TTY* customer relations line	Freecall™ 1800 000 567

*TTY is only for people who are deaf or who have a hearing or speech impairment. A TTY phone is required to use this service.

Disclaimer

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