



Information about the COVID-19 Disaster Payment

This is a lump-sum payment for eligible people who lost work and income due to a state or territory COVID-19 public health order. This may involve a lockdown, hotspot or movement restrictions.

The COVID-19 Disaster Payment is not taxable.

You may be able to get the COVID-19 Disaster Payment if you meet all the general eligibility rules as well as the rules for your situation. These are the general eligibility rules:

- you're 17 years or older
- you've lost at least 8 hours or a full day of work and income due a lockdown in your state or territory and don't have any appropriate pandemic-related leave entitlements
- you aren't getting Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment, a state or territory small business payment, Dad and Partner Pay, Parental Leave Pay, or a state or territory based pandemic payment for the same period
- you lived or worked in or visited a Commonwealth-declared COVID-19 hotspot that is subject to a restricted movement order
- you're not getting your usual income and your employer is not getting Retaining Domestic Airline Capability payments on your behalf.

You meet the requirement of living or working in a Commonwealth-declared COVID-19 hotspot if both of these apply:

- you live or work in an area which isn't locked down
- you can't work because you're unable to cross into or out of the lockdown area.

If you visited a Commonwealth declared COVID-19 hotspot during the relevant period and were subject to a second public health order that results in your restricted movement, you may also be eligible.

You no longer need to meet the Commonwealth-declared COVID-19 hotspot eligibility rule when both of these apply:

- your state or territory has reached 80% fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine
- we have granted your claim for COVID-19 Disaster Payment for a relevant period which includes the date your state or territory reaches 80% fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

A full day of your usual work is what you were scheduled to work but could not because of a restricted movement order. This includes not being able to attend a full time, part time or casual shift of less than 8 hours.

If you're getting a Centrelink or Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) payment

If you're getting an eligible Centrelink or DVA payment and meet all the eligibility rules, you can apply for COVID-19 Disaster Payment.

You must have reported employment income to us at least once in the 8 weeks before your claiming period. This rule doesn't apply to you if you're blind and getting Age Pension or Disability Support Pension.

You must be getting one of the following income support payments:

- Age Pension
- Austudy
- Carer Payment
- Disability Support Pension
- JobSeeker Payment
- Parenting Payment
- Special Benefit
- Farm Household Allowance
- Youth Allowance
- Widow Allowance
- Partner Allowance
- ABSTUDY Living Allowance
- Income support supplement under the Veterans' Act
- Service pension under the Veterans' Act
- Veteran payment under the Veterans' Act
- Education Allowance under the Veterans' Act.

You'll get your regular Centrelink or DVA payment on your usual payment dates. You don't need to report the COVID-19 Disaster Payment as income to Centrelink.

If you're not getting a Centrelink or DVA payment

If you meet all the eligibility rules and aren't getting an eligible Centrelink or DVA payment, you can apply for COVID-19 Disaster Payment.

You must be an Australian resident or hold a visa that gives you the right to work in Australia. You can check your visa details and conditions, including your right to work in Australia, using the [Department of Home Affairs' VEVO](#) system.

You can claim the COVID-19 Disaster Payment for one location only. If you think you're eligible for more than one, you need to decide which is best for you.

For more information, including locations, payment amounts and relevant periods, go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/covid19disasterpayment

If your state or territory reaches 70% or 80% full vaccination rates

Automatic COVID-19 Disaster Payments will stop when 70% of people aged 16 years and over in your state or territory are fully vaccinated with 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

If you are still affected by movement restrictions or lockdown, you will need to reapply for COVID-19 Disaster Payment each week so we know you remain eligible.

When 80% of people aged 16 years or older in your state or territory are fully vaccinated with 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, there will be changes to COVID-19 Disaster Payment.

You can only reapply for COVID-19 Disaster Payment if you have been granted for a relevant period which includes the date your state or territory reaches 80% full vaccination.

If you have been granted COVID-19 Disaster Payment for a relevant period which includes the date your state or territory reaches 80% fully vaccinated, you can reapply for the payment for up to 2 more weeks.

The COVID-19 Disaster Payment will reduce over a period of up to 2 weeks.

The first week after a state or territory reaches 80% fully vaccinated, the COVID-19 Disaster Payment will be one payment of:

- \$450 if you have lost more than 8 hours or a full day of work and you are not getting an eligible Centrelink or Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) payment
- \$100 if you have lost more than 8 hours or a full day of work and you are getting an eligible Centrelink or DVA payment.

The second week after a state or territory reaches 80% fully vaccinated, COVID-19 Disaster Payment will:

- be one payment of \$320 if you have lost more than 8 hours or a full day of work and you are not getting an eligible Centrelink or DVA payment
- end if you are getting an eligible Centrelink or DVA payment.

After this period, COVID-19 Disaster Payments will not be available in your area.

For more information:

- go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/covid19disasterpayment for information in English
- go to servicessaustralia.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.

If you are no longer eligible for COVID-19 Disaster Payment, you can find out what other payment or support you may be able to get. Go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/covid19

Call **131 202** to speak with us in your language about Centrelink payments and services. 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: This information is accurate as at 20 October 2021. 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.