



Robodebt class action and settlement payments

Information for class action members

In November 2019, Gordon Legal filed a class action on behalf of people who received debts under the Income Compliance Program. You may know this as robodebt. A class action is a legal case where a group of people sue another person or organisation. The Commonwealth and Gordon Legal agreed on a settlement. The Federal Court approved the settlement in June 2021. The settlement amount is \$112 million. Gordon Legal's costs will be deducted from this, and the remainder shared between eligible class action members.

Who can get a settlement payment?

Not every class action member will be eligible for a settlement payment.

If your debt was calculated using averaged Australian Taxation Office (ATO) income information and you made repayments on the debt, you may be eligible for a settlement payment.

You may also be eligible if all the points below apply to you:

- your debt was based in full or in part on averaged ATO income information
- your debt was recalculated based on information you gave us, like payslips
- you paid back more than the recalculated amount.

Who will not get a settlement payment?

You will not get a settlement payment if you did not repay any of your debt, even if that debt was raised using averaged ATO income information.

You will not be eligible if your debt was calculated using averaged ATO income information and both points below apply:

- it was recalculated based on other information you gave us, like payslips or bank statements
- the amount you paid back was less than or equal to the recalculated debt.

If your debt was not based on averaged ATO income information, you will not get a settlement payment.

People who opted out of the class action will not get settlement payments even if they made repayments on debts that were raised using averaged ATO income information.

How are settlement payments worked out?

We will work out settlement payments in a similar way to interest. The more you paid us back and the longer you went without your money, the larger your share of the settlement.

How much will I get in the settlement?

Most people will not get large amounts of money from the settlement. The amount each person gets will be different. The amount class action members will receive depends on:

- when they paid back money on an eligible debt
- how much they paid back
- when they were refunded.

Many people only paid back a small amount, or got a refund soon after they paid it back. This means some people will get less than \$10 as a settlement payment.

What do I need to do to get my settlement payment?

If you have not had a refund for your income compliance debt repayments, you must tell us where to pay your settlement payment by 11 February 2022. If you do not, you will miss out on your settlement payment.

You or your nominee can register your contact details and bank account using your Centrelink online account through myGov. A nominee is a person who is authorised to act on your behalf when dealing with us. Contact us using the telephone numbers below if you need help to appoint a nominee.

To register your contact details and bank account:

- Sign into your myGov account
- Go to Centrelink
- Complete the 'Class action settlement pending' task.

If you have already given us your bank details for a refund, we will pay your settlement payment to the same bank account. You do not need to update it unless you want to. If you want to change the bank account, you need to do it by 11 February 2022. We cannot change it after this date.

For help to tell us your bank details or how to pay you, phone **1800 171 846**. You can ask for an interpreter. We will arrange one for free.

What if I think my debt is in the wrong category?

Your letter lists your debts and the category they are in. Only some debt categories are eligible for a settlement payment. If you think your debt is in the wrong category, you can ask for a review. You can also ask for a review if we have not included a debt you think should be eligible. You need to do this before 10 December 2021. We cannot review debt categories after this date.

You or your nominee can request a review using your Centrelink online account through myGov:

- Sign into your myGov account
- Go to Centrelink
- Select 'Class action settlement query' from the 'Income Compliance' menu.

You can also call us on **1800 171 846** for help to get a review. You can ask for an interpreter. We will arrange one for free.

For more information

- Call **1800 171 846** and let us know you need an interpreter. We will arrange one for free.
- Call **131 202** to speak with us in your language about Centrelink payments and services
- Go to **servicessaustralia.gov.au/classaction** for more information in English
- Go to **servicessaustralia.gov.au/yourlanguage** where you can read, listen to or watch videos with information in your language
- Visit a service centre.
- For advice on debt categories and the settlement distribution, go to Gordon Legal at **robodebtclassaction.com.au** or call **1300 001 356**.

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.