

نېټه په ښار کې شتون لري او په ښار کې شتون لري:

- ejaustralia.org.au - Economic Justice Australia د ښار په
- nationallegalaid.org - National Legal Aid د ښار په

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What are your options if you do not agree with a decision?

If you do not understand or agree with a decision we have made, you can ask for an explanation or apply for a formal review.

Explanation of decision

You can ask us to explain our decision. You may want to ask for an explanation if you do not understand a decision we have made.

You can do this at any time.

An experienced staff member will contact you to explain the decision and answer any questions you have. We might be able to sort out your concerns or change the decision without needing a formal review.

When you ask for an explanation, we aim to contact you within 14 days.

You do not have to pay for an explanation of a decision.

Formal review

You can apply for a formal review of our decision. You may want to apply for a formal review if you understand our decision but disagree with it.

You can apply for a formal review at any time. You do not have to ask for an explanation first.

When you apply for a formal review, our Authorised Review Officer will:

- aim to complete the formal review within 49 days
- look at the facts, the law, and the policy involved in the decision
- change the decision if it is wrong
- write to you to let you know the outcome of your formal review.

You do not have to pay for a formal review of a decision.

How to ask for an explanation or formal review

You can ask for an explanation or apply for a formal review using any of the following options:

- calling your regular Centrelink payment line
- calling us on **131 202** to speak with someone in your language
- visiting a service centre.

You can also fill in the *Explanation or formal review of a decision* form and give us any supporting documents online, using either:

- your Centrelink online account through myGov
- the Express Plus Centrelink mobile app.

Go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/ss351 to download the *Explanation or formal review of a decision* form.

If you cannot give the documents to us online, you can post them to:

Centrelink
Reply Paid 7800
Canberra BC ACT 2610

For decisions about Assistance for Isolated Children you need to fill in a different form. This is the *ABSTUDY and Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Explanation or formal review of a decision form*. You can return it to us using the details on the form.

Go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/sy054 to access the *ABSTUDY and Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Explanation or formal review of a decision form*.

If you disagree with a Centrelink debt

Generally, you can ask for an explanation or apply for a formal review of your debt at any time. Some debts have different time limits for you to apply for a formal review. You can read more about time limits below.

Payment type	Formal review time limits
Assistance for Isolated Children	You must apply for a formal review within 3 months from the date we made our decision.
Tertiary Access Payment	You must apply for a formal review within 13 weeks from when we tell you about the decision.

If you have a debt, you can ask us to pause your repayments until your explanation or formal review is complete. You can do this when you talk to us about a decision.

Time limits when applying for a formal review

You should apply for a formal review within 13 weeks from the date we tell you about the decision.

Some payments have different time limits for you to apply for a formal review. This applies to both claim and entitlement decisions.

You can still apply for a formal review after your payment review time limit. However, if the decision is changed, you may only get your payment from the date you apply for the formal review.

You can read more about time limits below.

Payment type	Formal review time limits
Family Tax Benefit	You should apply for a formal review within 52 weeks from the date we tell you about the decision.
Family Tax Benefit and Child Support	You should apply for a formal review within 52 weeks from the date we tell you about the decision. If you are also a Child Support customer and the decision affects your child support assessment, you should apply for a formal review within 28 days from the date we tell you about the decision.
Child Care Subsidy	You should apply for a formal review within 13 weeks from the date we tell you about the decision.
Parental Leave Pay	You should apply for a formal review within 28 days from the day we make the decision.
Dad and Partner Pay	You should apply for a formal review within 28 days from the day we make the decision.

Tertiary Access Payments	You must apply for a formal review within 13 weeks from when we tell you about the decision.
Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme	You can apply for a formal review at any time. If the decision is about the recovery of a debt, you must apply for a formal review within 3 months from the date we made the decision.

If you disagree with a formal review outcome

If you disagree with a formal review outcome of a Centrelink decision, you can ask the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) to review it. The AAT is an independent tribunal.

The AAT has 2 review levels. This means if you disagree with the AAT's first review, you can apply for a second review.

If you are applying to the AAT, you can ask us to pause your debt repayments until the AAT's first review is complete.

There may be a different review and appeal process if the decision relates to the following payments:

- Assistance for Isolated Children
- Rural ex-gratia payment.

When to apply to the AAT

You should apply within 13 weeks from the date of our formal review decision. You can still apply for an AAT review after 13 weeks. However, if the AAT changes the decision, you may only get your payment from the date you applied for the review.

If you want a review of a Paid Parental Leave Scheme decision, you should apply within 28 days of our formal review decision.

How to apply to the AAT

To apply for an AAT review of a decision, go to aat.gov.au and follow their instructions.

After you submit an application, we will send the AAT a statement. It will contain the reasons for the decision and relevant agency documents. You will also get a copy of our statement and documents.

If you disagree with the AAT's first review, you may be able to apply for a second AAT review. You should make an application for a second AAT review within 28 days of receiving the first review decision.

What are the costs?

For some types of decisions, there may be an AAT application fee.

We cannot help you with the costs of applying for an AAT review. The AAT also cannot award you costs if you are successful.

If your review with the AAT is unsuccessful, we do not ask you to pay our costs.

What else you should know

Legal assistance

You can choose to have your own legal representative if you seek a formal review of a decision.

Free advice and assistance is available from:

- Economic Justice Australia website – ejaustralia.org.au
- National Legal Aid website – nationallegalaid.org

Compensation claims

In some cases you may be able to claim compensation if you think we have made a mistake that has caused you a financial loss or other harm.

You should explore all of your review options before you claim compensation. We may not compensate you if other options can resolve the issue.

You can claim compensation by completing the *Compensation Application* form. If you cannot print it, you can ask staff at your local service centre to print the form. You can also call us on your regular Centrelink payment line or **131 202** and we can send it to you. When calling your payment line, let us know if you need an interpreter, and we will arrange one for free.

Go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/ss509 to download the *Compensation Application form*.

For more information

- Go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/reviewsandappeals for more 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 someone in your language about Centrelink payments and services
- Call **132 011** for Medicare and **131 272** for Child Support. Let us know if you need an interpreter, and we will arrange one for free
- 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.