**Youth Allowance: dependent or independent?**

If you’re applying for Youth Allowance, we’ll assess you as either dependent or independent.

If you’re ‘dependent’, we use your parents’ income to work out if you can get Youth Allowance and how much.

You may consider yourself independent — you cook your own meals and wash your own clothes… but for Youth Allowance, we assess independence a little differently.

You’re automatically independent once you turn 22.

If you’re under 22 you’re generally dependent.

There are some situations where you’re considered independent if you’re under 22, such as if you’ve supported yourself through work.

This includes working an average of 30 hours per week for at least 18 months during any two year period.

If you live in a regional or remote area, you might be considered independent under different rules.

You can find out more about independence on our website: **servicesaustralia.gov.au/youthallowance**