

Seniors Concession Allowance



We speak your language  13 1202*

Seniors Concession Allowance – English

The Seniors Concession Allowance is an ongoing payment paid in four instalments in March, June, September and December. The payment is made to Australian residents who hold a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC).

Most self-funded retirees do not receive concessions for energy, rates, water and sewerage and motor vehicle registration from state and territory governments. The Seniors Concession Allowance acknowledges their contribution in providing for their own retirement.

To be eligible for the allowance you must:

- qualify for a CSHC on 20 March, 20 June, 20 September or 20 December each year
- not be permanently absent from Australia
- if temporarily absent from Australia on 20 March, 20 June, 20 September or 20 December each year, you must have been in Australia for any part of the previous 13 weeks, **and**
- have been qualified for a CSHC immediately prior to departure.

Cardholders should note that if you travel overseas your CSHC will be cancelled. When you return to Australia you will need to reapply for a CSHC.

Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

The CSHC is available to self-funded retirees. To qualify you must:

- be an Australian resident in Australia to retain the card
- not be receiving a social security pension or benefit, or a Department of Veterans' Affairs service pension
- be of age pension age
- meet an annual adjusted taxable income test. There is no assets test.

Note: Holders of a CSHC may also qualify for Telephone Allowance. For more information and to provide telephone and internet subscriber details, go to www.centrelink.gov.au where you can access Centrelink's Online Services or phone 13 1202*.

How is the allowance paid?

The Seniors Concession Allowance will only be paid into the bank account that is already registered for each cardholder. No payment can be made until the cardholder provides bank account details to Centrelink.

Where both members of a couple hold a CSHC, they will both receive full payment of the Seniors Concession Allowance. Where only one member of a couple holds a CSHC, only the cardholder will be paid the allowance. Payments are not taxable and will be increased in line with the Consumer Price Index.

For more information in languages other than English, call 13 1202* or visit our website at www.centrelink.gov.au

*Calls from your home phone to Centrelink "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.

www.centrelink.gov.au



Australian Government



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Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is intended only as a guide to payments available.

What are your responsibilities?

- It is your responsibility to decide if you wish to apply for a payment and to make the application, having regard to your particular circumstances.
- The information is accurate as at February 2008, but may of course change. If you use this publication after that date, please check with Centrelink that the details are up to date.

From what date are benefits payable?

Most government payments are paid from, or after, the date on which the application is made. So the sooner you lodge your application, the quicker you may be paid.

What is the position if you deal with a third party?

You may deal with a third party who is not a member of Centrelink's staff. If you do so, please remember that Centrelink has not authorised any third parties to provide information or advice to you about payments.

Note: The information in this publication is correct, subject to the passage of legislation.