

Caring for our people



What is a carer?

Carers are people who take care of someone who is sick and needs help to live at home. You don't have to live with the person or people you care for but you have to be giving lots of care to be able to get a payment. There are two kinds of payments, Carer Payment and Carer Allowance.

What is Carer Payment?

If you can't work full-time because you are looking after someone who has a severe disability, a severe medical condition, or who is old and frail, you may be able to get Carer Payment from Centrelink. A doctor or health worker must fill out part of the form for Carer Payment. If you are not getting Carer Payment but think you may be able to, even if you have applied before, please call Centrelink on **13 2717** or visit your local Centrelink office.

What is Carer Allowance?

If you need to look after someone for some time every day because they have a disability, medical condition, or are old and frail, you may be able to get Carer Allowance from Centrelink. A doctor or health worker must fill out part of the form for Carer Allowance. This money can be paid on top of Carer Payment and other Centrelink payments, such as Age Pension or Disability Support Pension. You can get Carer Allowance even if you are working.

Where can I find more information?

Caring for someone **13 2717**

Indigenous Call Centre **13 6380**

You can also visit www.centrelink.gov.au

Ask for help

If you don't understand something, ask a Centrelink Customer Service Advisor for help. Centrelink can also arrange an interpreter for you if you need one.

Know your rights

If you are unhappy with a decision made by Centrelink, you can ask us to review it. This is a free service and most decisions can be appealed.

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.

The information is accurate as at April 2010. If you use this publication after that date, please check with us that the details are current.



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