



Australian Government



# Parenting Payment Rates

1 July–19 September 2008

## Parenting Payment • Double Orphan Pension

### Parenting Payment

#### Basic conditions of eligibility

- Must have qualifying child aged under six if you are partnered, aged under eight if you are single or aged under 16 if you have been in receipt of Parenting Payment prior to 1 July 2006.
- Can be paid to only one member of a couple.
- When youngest qualifying child is aged six or over, must enter into Activity Agreement allowing participation in a broad range of activities.

**Note:** customers who were granted Parenting Payment before 1 July 2006 will (subject to continuing eligibility) remain on this payment until their youngest child turns 16 and will have participation requirements when their youngest child turns seven.

#### Residential requirements

- Must be in Australia as an Australian resident for a period of, or periods totalling, 104 weeks, or arrived in Australia as a refugee, or became a single parent while an Australian resident (for Parenting Payment Single only), or has a qualifying residence exemption.
- Can be paid for up to 13 weeks for a temporary absence from Australia. The length of your last return to Australia may affect your entitlement during the absence from Australia.
- Different rules apply if a person is covered by an International Social Security Agreement.

#### Basic rates

- Single parents: up to \$546.80\* per fortnight.  
\* Since July 2000, has included a supplement. It is currently \$18.80.
- Partnered parents: up to \$394.40 per fortnight (up to \$472.80 per fortnight if separated by illness or respite care couple, or partner in prison).
- Pharmaceutical Allowance is paid to Parenting Payment (Single) customers; it may be paid to Parenting Payment (Partnered) customers—see Chart H.
- Education Entry Payment of \$208 may be payable.
- Employment Entry Payment of \$104 may be payable, this ceases from 1 July 2008.
- Pensioner Education Supplement may be paid to Parenting Payment (Single) customers.

#### Rent Assistance

- Normally paid with Family Tax Benefit Part A.

#### Income test

##### Single parents

- See Chart C.

##### Partnered parents

###### Partner is not a pensioner

- For maximum payment the customer's income must be no more than \$62 per fortnight and the partner's income must be no more than \$751 per fortnight.
- Customer's income reduces the rate by 50 cents for each dollar between \$62 and \$250, and by 60 cents for each dollar above \$250 per fortnight.
- Partner's income up to \$751 per fortnight has no effect. Income over this amount reduces the rate by 60 cents for each extra dollar.
- A part payment may be available provided all of the following conditions are met:
  - customer's income must be less than \$750.67 per fortnight, and
  - partner's income must be less than \$1408.33 per fortnight, and
  - the combined income of the couple must be less than \$1501.67 per fortnight.
- These conditions are a guide only. Some customers who meet these conditions will not be eligible for a payment. Eligibility can only be confirmed following a full assessment of a couple's income under the relevant income test.
- Different limits apply if the partner receives Youth Allowance or Austudy payment.

###### Partner is a pensioner

- For maximum payment the couple's combined income must be no more than \$124 per fortnight.
- Couple's combined income reduces the rate by 25 cents for each dollar between \$124 and \$500, and by 30 cents for each dollar above \$500 per fortnight.
- For part payment the couple's combined income must be less than \$1501.34 per fortnight.

#### Assets test

- Homeowners see Chart A.
- Non-homeowners see Chart B.
- Hardship provisions may apply.

## Double Orphan Pension (DOP)

### Basic conditions of eligibility

- Child(ren) aged under 16 in care and control of customer.
- Full-time dependent students aged 16–21 who do not receive Youth Allowance.
- Both the child(ren)'s parents have died, or
- One parent has died and the whereabouts of the other is unknown to the claimant, or
- One parent has died and the other parent is in prison for not less than 10 years or held on remand and charged with an offence that may be punishable by imprisonment for a term of at least 10 years, or
- One parent has died and the other parent is a patient of a psychiatric hospital or nursing home indefinitely.
- Refugee children under certain circumstances.
- Payable to a guardian or approved care organisation.

### Residential requirements

- Claimant must be living in Australia and be:
  - an Australian citizen, or
  - the holder of a permanent visa, or
  - a New Zealand citizen who arrived on a New Zealand passport.
- Holder of a certain temporary visa, subclass 070, 309, 310, 447, 451, 695, 785, 786, 820 or 826, or the holder of a Criminal Justice Stay Visa issued specifically for the purpose of assisting in the administration of criminal justice in relation to the offence of people trafficking, sexual servitude or deceptive recruiting.
- May be paid for up to three years of a temporary absence from Australia. However, some recipients (certain temporary visa holders) may not be paid at all, or only in strictly limited circumstances.
- Different rules apply if a person is covered by an International Social Security Agreement.
- Can be claimed during a temporary absence from Australia.

### Basic rates

- The base rate of DOP is \$50.40 per fortnight.
- An additional component of DOP may be payable. The additional component will be equal to the difference between the carer's entitlement to Family Tax Benefit for the young person and the Family Allowance/Family Tax Benefit received for the young person immediately before they became a double orphan. The additional component will not be payable to approved care organisations.

### Income test

- No income test.

### Assets test

- No assets test.

## Chart A and B—Assets test for Parenting Payment

### Chart A—Assets test for homeowners

Family situation	For full pension/allowance*
Single	up to \$171 750
Partnered (combined)	up to \$243 500
Illness separated couple (combined)	up to \$243 500
One partner eligible	up to \$243 500

### Chart B—Assets test for non-homeowners

Family situation	For full pension/allowance*
Single	up to \$296 250
Partnered (combined)	up to \$368 000
Illness separated couple (combined)	up to \$368 000
One partner eligible	up to \$368 000

Some assets are deemed to earn income, while certain assets are not included in the assets test. Contact Centrelink for more information.

**Note:** the rate of payment is calculated under both the income and assets tests. The test that results in the lower rate (or nil rate) will apply.

- \* NSA/WA/PA/SA/SpB/Parenting Payment/YA and Austudy and MAA not payable if assets exceed these amounts.

### Extra Allowable Amount for retirement village and granny flat residents

If your Entry Contribution is equal to or less than the Extra Allowable Amount, you are assessed as a non-homeowner. Your Entry Contribution will count as an asset. You may qualify for Rent Assistance. The Extra Allowable Amount is the difference between the non-homeowner and homeowner assets test limits, currently \$124 500.

### Hardship provisions

If you have assets but little or no income you are expected to rearrange your affairs to provide for yourself. In some cases that is not possible. If you are in "severe financial hardship" you may be able to get an income support payment. Different tests apply to such cases.

## Chart C—Income Test for Parenting Payment

### Income test for pensions

Family situation	For full pension (pf)*	For part pension (pf)*†
Single**	up to \$138.00	less than \$1519.50
Single + one child	up to \$162.60	less than \$1544.10
Couple (combined)	up to \$240.00	less than \$2538.50
Illness separated couple (combined)	up to \$240.00	less than \$3003.00
Additional children	add \$24.60 per child	

Some assets are deemed to earn income, while there are special rules for other types of income. Contact Centrelink for more information.

**Note:** the rate of payment is calculated under both the income and assets tests. The test that results in the lower rate (or nil rate) will apply.

## Payment Rates

- \* Income over these amounts reduces the rate of pension payable by 40 cents in the dollar (single), 20 cents in the dollar each (for couples).
- \*\* For DSP customers, these limits apply if aged over 21 only. For under 21 the same income/assets test applies, but with different limits. See your nearest Centrelink Customer Service Centre for information.
- † Pharmaceutical Allowance included.
- ‡ These figures may be higher if Rent Assistance is paid with your pension.

### Compensation payment

Compensation payments, such as weekly workers' compensation payments, are assessed differently. If the compensable injury occurred prior to receiving an income support payment each dollar of any regular compensation payment reduces the income support payment (pension or allowance) by a dollar. If the compensable injury occurred while receiving an income support payment any regular compensation payment is assessed under the normal income test. Compensation payments may include a component of taxable income and it is this component that is included as income for Family Tax Benefit purposes. Lump sum compensation payments may result in a non-payment period. Contact Centrelink for more information.

### Chart H—Pharmaceutical Allowance (PhA)

Rate: \$5.80 per fortnight for eligible single people, and \$2.90 per fortnight for each eligible member of a couple (i.e. \$5.80 in total if both members of a couple are eligible). However, where a person is a member of an illness separated couple or a respite care couple or where a partner is in prison, the rate is \$5.80 per fortnight (i.e. same as for a single person).

Payment	Conditions under which PhA is paid
Age Pension	Automatically paid to customers of these payments.
Bereavement Allowance	
Carer Payment	
Disability Support Pension	
Mature Age Allowance	
Parenting Payment (Single)	
Sickness Allowance	
Widow B Pension	
Wife Pension	
Newstart Allowance	Customers must be temporarily incapacitated, or have a partial capacity to work, or be a single principal carer of a dependent child, be over 60 years of age and have been in receipt of income support continuously for at least nine months.

Partner Allowance	Customers must be either temporarily incapacitated, or be over 60 years of age and have been in receipt of income support continuously for at least nine months.
Widow Allowance	
ABSTUDY	
Special Benefit*	
*(Note: Special Benefit customers are NOT required to be Australian residents in order to be paid PhA).	
Austudy	Customer must be over 60 years of age and have been in receipt of income support continuously for at least nine months.
Parenting Payment (Partnered)	Customer must be over 60 years of age and have been in receipt of income support continuously for nine months or be unable to meet participation requirements due to a temporary incapacity.
Youth Allowance (job seeker)	Must be either temporarily incapacitated or a single principal carer of a dependent child or have a partial capacity to work.
Youth Allowance (full-time students and Australian Apprentices)	Must be temporarily incapacitated.
Community Development Employment Project (CDEP)	As per relevant payment type.

Note: PhA is subject to portability provisions where relevant.

### Calling Centrelink

Employment Services	13 2850
Youth Allowance	13 2490
Austudy	13 2490
ABSTUDY	13 2317
Australian Apprentices	13 3633
Pensioner Education Supplement (PES)	13 2490
Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Scheme	13 2318
Retirement	13 2300
Disability, Sickness and Carers	13 2717
Family Assistance Office	13 6150
To speak to Centrelink in languages other than English	13 1202
For information about claiming a payment from a country other than Australia and about claiming an Australian payment while outside Australia	13 1673
Calling from outside Australia (you can reverse charge)	+61 3 6222 3455
Australian Government Services Fraud Tip-off Line or through the internet at <a href="http://www.centrelink.gov.au">www.centrelink.gov.au</a>	13 1524
Customer Relations Suggestions, complaints and compliments	Freecall™ 1800 050 004
TTY Enquiries	Freecall™ 1800 810 586
Only for people who are deaf or who have a hearing or speech impairment. A TTY phone is required to use this service.	

TTY Customer Relations Freecall™1800 000 567

Only for people who are deaf or who have a hearing or speech impairment. A TTY phone is required to use this service.

Information on payment rates is also available on the Centrelink website at [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://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.

### Centrelink self service

A growing number of Centrelink services are available through online and phone self service. Using self service you can:

- update family income estimate
- claim student Youth Allowance or Austudy
- report employment income
- update address and banking details.

### Online self service

Once you have registered you can logon at [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au) to access online services.

Refer to Service Available Times on our website for when online services are available.

### Phone self service

Centrelink has two self service lines. For general self service, phone **13 6240**, Monday to Friday from 5.30 am to 12 midnight (except for national and state-based public holidays), on Saturday from 5.00 am to 6.00 pm and on Sunday from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm.

For the reporting line, phone **13 3276**, Monday to Friday from 6.00 am to 10.00 pm (except for national and state-based public holidays). Remember to call before 6.00 pm (8.00 pm for Parenting Payment) on the day you are due to report.

### 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 1 July 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 the 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.