

# Pension Supplement



## What is the Pension Supplement?

The Pension Supplement helps you to meet the costs of your daily household and living expenses.

For customers who are eligible, the Pension Supplement combines the GST Supplement, Utilities Allowance, Telephone Allowance and Pharmaceutical Allowance.

## Who can get the Pension Supplement?

You may be eligible for the Pension Supplement if you:

- are age pension age and receiving an income support payment from Centrelink, **or**
- are any age and you receive Bereavement Allowance, Carer Payment, Widow B Pension or Wife Pension, **or**
- receive Disability Support Pension, (excluding those under 21 years without dependent children).

The Pension Supplement will not be paid to pensioners paid under transitional arrangements arising from the pension income test changes. However, these pensioners will receive an equivalent amount in their transitional rate (see the *Transitional Rate of Pension* factsheet).

## When will I receive the Pension Supplement?

The Pension Supplement is paid with your regular fortnightly income support payment. You do not have to apply for the Pension Supplement.

From 1 July 2010 you have the option of receiving the minimum amount of the Pension Supplement on a quarterly basis.

The minimum Pension Supplement amount is paid as soon as possible after 20 March, 20 June, 20 September and 20 December each year with your fortnightly income support payment.

If you choose this option, the amount of Pension Supplement paid with your income support payment each fortnight will be reduced.

## How much is the Pension Supplement?

Refer to *A Guide to Australian Government Payments* booklet for the current rate of Pension Supplement.

The Pension Supplement is adjusted in March and September each year in line with the Consumer Price Index.

## Is the Pension Supplement means tested?

The Pension Supplement is subject to the means test.

If your rate of payment is reduced once the means test has been applied, and you are eligible to receive some income support payment, you will receive at least the minimum amount of the Pension Supplement.

## Is the Pension Supplement taxable?

The basic amount of the Pension Supplement is taxable only if your income support payment is taxable.

## Will I still get the Pension Supplement if I leave Australia, either temporarily or permanently?

You can receive the Pension Supplement for up to 13 weeks if you depart Australia temporarily, as long as your primary income support payment is payable. If you are still outside Australia after 13 weeks, and your income support payment is payable, the Pension Supplement will reduce to the basic amount.

If you depart Australia permanently, and your income support payment is payable, you will receive the Pension Supplement basic amount.

## How is the minimum Pension Supplement amount calculated?

While you continue to receive your regular Centrelink payment, the Pension Supplement continues to be payable and calculated on a daily basis. When you choose to receive the minimum Pension Supplement amount quarterly, this component continues to accrue daily and is paid at the end of the quarterly period.

Each quarter will vary with the amount of days, therefore the minimum Pension Supplement amount will vary accordingly.

20 September 2010	➔	1 July to 19 September 2010	81 days
20 December 2010	➔	20 September to 19 December 2010	91 days
20 March 2011	➔	20 December to 19 March 2011	90 days
20 June 2011	➔	20 March to 19 June 2011	92 days
20 September 2011	➔	20 June to 19 September 2011	92 days

## What do I need to do to receive the Pension Supplement quarterly?

To receive the minimum Pension Supplement amount quarterly, you can contact us by calling the Centrelink Seniors line on 13 2300, request it in writing or visit your local Centrelink Customer Service Centre.

If you choose to receive the payment quarterly it will commence accruing on a daily basis from the date you advise us.

The option to receive the minimum Pension Supplement amount as a fortnightly or quarterly payment can be changed at any time.

## How to contact us

Information about the changes to the pension system is available from [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au). If you want to talk to someone about how these changes may affect you, call the Centrelink retirement line on **13 2300** or the Centrelink Disability and Carers line on **13 2717**.

You can also ask to talk, free of charge, to a Financial Information Service officer about options with your savings, investments and related arrangements by calling the same number.

## For more information

Go to our website at [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)

<b>Retirement</b>	<b>13 2300</b>
<b>Disability and Carers</b>	<b>13 2717</b>
Ask at a Centrelink Customer Service Centre	
<b>Financial Information Service</b>	<b>13 2300</b>
<b>Financial Information Service seminar bookings</b>	<b>13 6357</b>
<b>Centrelink International Services</b>	<b>13 1673</b>
<b>Looking for work</b>	<b>13 2850</b>
<b>Parent or guardian</b>	<b>13 6150</b>
<b>To speak to Centrelink in languages other than English</b>	<b>13 1202</b>
<b>Australian Government Services Fraud and Tip-off line</b>	<b>13 1524</b>
<b>Customer Relations</b>	<b>Freecall™ 1800 050 004</b>
<b>TTY* enquiries</b>	<b>Freecall™ 1800 810 586</b>

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

## Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is intended only as a guide. The information is accurate as at June 2010. If you use this publication after that date, please check with Centrelink that the details are current.