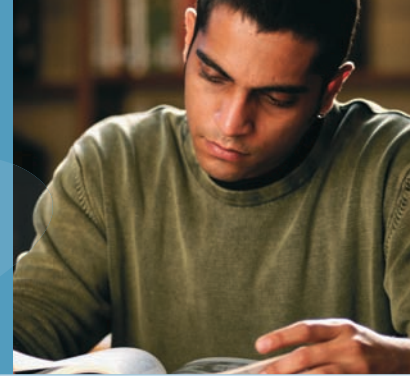


Students: avoid a Centrelink debt



You must tell Centrelink if there are changes to your or your partner's circumstances (or to your parents' circumstances, if you are a dependant) that could affect your payment rate or entitlements. It is important that you get the right amount so you don't have to pay money back or risk a fine, community service or even a criminal record.

Here are some of the things you need to tell us about within 14 days

Income

Have you or your partner:

- earned or received any income?
- received any leave or redundancy payments?

Have your:

- income details changed?
- partner's income details changed?

Reporting your employment income

Centrelink may ask you to report your earnings (before tax) as well as any other changes on the same day each fortnight. If this is the case, Centrelink will send you a 'Reporting Statement' telling you when to report.

Centrelink has self service options that make it easy for you to report your employment income. You can report your income using online services at www.centrelink.gov.au, or using our automated phone line on **13 3276**. To use Centrelink Self Service options you must first be registered.

Study

Have you:

- stopped studying?
- changed the number of hours you are studying?
- changed your course?
- changed educational institutions?
- had more than five days unapproved absence?

Personal

- has your marital status changed?
- have you changed your address or rent details?
- have you left Australia temporarily or permanently?

Dependants

If you are being paid as a dependant, you should also tell us if:

- there are changes to your parents' income or your family's assets
- your parents' marital status changes (i.e. they separate, reconcile or become partnered)
- you have a brother or sister who leaves or returns home
- you are paid an away from home rate and you return home (even temporarily).

Important information

If you don't tell Centrelink about these changes, you could quickly end up owing a lot of money including an additional recovery fee if your earnings are not declared correctly. There's

www.centrelink.gov.au



Australian Government



also a chance you may miss out on some services that are available to help you find work, improve your skills or enrol in a different course of study.

How to find out more

Youth Allowance, Austudy and Pensioner Education Supplement 13 2490

ABSTUDY 13 2317

To speak to Centrelink in languages other than English 13 1202

Customer Relations Freecall™ 1800 050 004
(for complaints, compliments and suggestions)

Australian Government Services Fraud Tip-off Line 13 1524

TTY* enquiries Freecall™ 1800 810 586

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

Go to our website at www.centrelink.gov.au

Check the "we speak your language" link on Centrelink's website for information in languages other than English.

Note: 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.

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 May 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.