

Changes to Youth Allowance (Jobseeker) participation requirements



From 1 July 2009, if you apply for and get Youth Allowance (Jobseeker) and you don't have Year 12 or a Certificate II qualification, you will need to do further study or training.

If you were already receiving Youth Allowance (Jobseeker) before 1 July 2009, the changes will apply to you from 1 January 2010.

Here are some of the things you may need to do to receive Youth Allowance (Jobseeker)

Further study or training

To be eligible for Youth Allowance (Jobseeker) you will have to study or undertake training until you get Year 12 or a Certificate II qualification. Having this higher level of education will help when you are looking for a job.

Additional activities

If you are studying or training full-time you do not have to do extra activities, but if you are studying or training part-time you will have to do extra activities to be paid Youth Allowance (Jobseeker).

Extra activities can include things like part-time work, volunteer work or youth programs. The total number of hours you need to do is 25 hours each week.

If you are not sure what to do, Job Services Australia can help you choose from a range of approved activities.

Agree on a written plan with Job Services Australia or Centrelink

Your Job Services Australia provider or Centrelink will work with you to set out your training and activities in a written plan. To continue receiving Youth Allowance (Jobseeker) you will need to meet with your provider or Centrelink each month to talk about the plan and show that you are doing all your activities.

Your provider will help make sure you can do your plan and will also help you to change the plan if your situation changes.

Job Services Australia and Centrelink will help you work out the right mix of study and activities. Talk to your provider if you need more information, or call Centrelink on **13 2490**.

I can't study, train or do 25 hours a week of activities. What should I do?

If you can't do 25 hours a week of activities or you can't study for your Year 12 or a Certificate II straight away, Job Services Australia or Centrelink will help work out what is right for you.

There are a few situations where you might not be able to do 25 hours a week of activities. For example, if you have a disability, you may need to go straight to a disability services provider and you won't need to study or do any training if that is not right for you.

If you can't meet the activities because you're undertaking training in reading and writing, or you need help to sort out some personal issues and have joined a youth program, Centrelink will help work out what you need to do to get Youth Allowance (Jobseeker).



What if I have a written plan with Job Services Australia or Centrelink?

If you have a written plan with Job Services Australia or Centrelink that says you need to do a certain number of hours a week of activities (usually 25 hours a week), you must stick to the plan.

If you don't follow your plan and you don't have a good reason, you may lose some of your Youth Allowance (Jobseeker) payment.

If you are having trouble sticking to the plan, tell Job Services Australia or Centrelink straight away and they will help you work through your options.

What if I have a Year 12 or a Certificate II qualification?

If you have Year 12 or Certificate II qualification, the changes outlined in this factsheet do not apply to you, but you will need to provide evidence of your qualification to Centrelink within 28 days of claiming Youth Allowance (Jobseeker).

If you don't provide this information you will need to do approved activities for 25 hours per week to keep receiving your Youth Allowance payments.

If you are studying or training full-time then you may be eligible for Youth Allowance (Student) and these changes do not apply to you.

Once you get a Year 12 or a Certificate II qualification, under the new rules for Youth Allowance you can decide to start looking for a job or consider doing further full-time study on Youth Allowance (Student).

Where can I find more information?

If you need more information, call Centrelink on **13 2490** or visit **www.centrelink.gov.au**.