

Allowances and Benefits— Income and Assets Test



Allowances and Benefits – Income and Assets Tests—English

The allowances and benefits income and assets tests apply to Newstart Allowance, Special Benefit, Partner Allowance, Widow Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Mature Age Allowance and Parenting Payment paid to partnered customers. Single Parenting Payment customers should read the *Pensions—Income and Assets Tests* factsheet.

Assets table for allowances and benefits

| Assets test | No payment if your assets are more than* |
|-----------------------|--|
| Single, homeowner | \$178 000 |
| Single, non-homeowner | \$307 000 |
| Couple, homeowner | \$252 500 (combined) |
| Couple, non-homeowner | \$381 500 (combined) |

* The assets limits are the same as the pensions' assets test. Where the limits are not exceeded, payment is made under the income test. Hardship provisions may apply.

Income test

Both single people and each member of a couple receiving allowances can earn up to \$62.00 each fortnight without their payment being affected. Payment is reduced by 50 cents for every dollar of income between \$62.00 and \$250.00 a fortnight. Every dollar of income over \$250.00 a fortnight reduces payment by 60 cents. Special Benefit has no free area, the benefit is reduced by one dollar for each dollar of income.

All figures are current as of 20 September 2009.

For more information in languages other than English, call **13 1202*** or visit **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.