



Centrelink – WHAT ARE YOU ENTITLED TO IN 2014?

Centrelink provides a range of payments to help non-parent carers who provide care to a child. The following subsidies and payment packages are available to foster carers. For further information about available payments please call Centrelink **on 13 27 17**. For more details please refer to Centrelink official website <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/subjects/support-for-non-parent-carers>. Or visit your local Centrelink office.

FAMILY TAX BENEFITS			
What's Available.	Eligibility	Relevant Dates	Note
<p>Family Tax Benefit A</p> <p>http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/family-tax-benefit-part-a-part-b</p>	<p>You may be eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A if you care for a dependent child who is either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • under 16 years of age • aged 16 or 17 years and has completed a Year 12 or equivalent qualification, or • aged 16–19 years (up to the end of the calendar year they turn 19) and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is undertaking full-time education or training in an approved course leading to a Year 12 or equivalent qualification has an acceptable study load, or has been granted an exemption from this requirement <p>You also need to satisfy an income test, meet residence requirements and be caring for the child</p>	<p>Any time</p>	<p>Children need to be 'fully immunised', be on a recognised immunisation catch up schedule, or have an approved exemption to be eligible for the Family Tax Benefit Part A supplement for that period.</p> <p>You will not be eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A or Part B if your child earns \$14,078 or more during the financial year and is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aged 5–15 years and not studying full time • aged 16–19 years and not in full-time secondary study, or exempt from this requirement.

	<p>at least 35 per cent of the time.</p> <p>Family Tax Benefit is also able to be backdated with claims for previous financial year – for example we are in the 2013/14 financial year and primary carers can claim for the 2012/13 financial year if a child has been in their care.</p>		
<p>Single Income Family Supplement (SIFS)</p>	<p>An annual non-taxable payment of up to \$300 for families with one main income earner and single parent families who, unlike dual income families with similar household incomes, receive little or no assistance through tax changes under the Household Assistance Package.</p>		<p>SIFS is paid automatically to Family Tax Benefit (FTB) customers as part of their annual FTB entitlement after the end of the relevant financial year.</p> <p><u>SIFS can also be claimed separately each financial year by non-FTB customers</u></p>
<p>Baby Bonus</p> <p>http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/baby-bonus</p>	<p>You may qualify if a baby comes into your care within 26 weeks of birth and you are likely to be providing care for 26 weeks or more.</p> <p>A claim needs to be lodged within 52 weeks of birth.</p> <p>The child must be born or adopted before 1 March 2014.</p>	<p>Available until 28 February 2014.</p>	<p>The Baby Bonus will be replaced from 1 March 2014 with a rate increase of Family Tax Benefit Part A for children who are born, taken into care for at least 13 weeks, or placed for adoption after 1 March 2014.</p> <p>The extra Family Tax Benefit Part A payments for families will total \$2,000 for their first child and \$1,000 for subsequent children. It will be paid as an initial installment of \$500, with the rest rolled into normal fortnightly payments over a three month period.</p>

			<p>This measure will start on 1 March 2014 and will be ongoing</p> <p>http://www.humanservices.gov.au/corporate/publications-and-resources/budget/1314/measures/families/48-15254</p>
<p>Newborn Upfront Payment and Newborn Supplement.</p> <p>http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/newborn-upfront-payment-and-newborn-supplement</p>	<p>If you are eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A for a child who is born or adopted on or after 1 March 2014, you may also be eligible for the Newborn Upfront Payment and Newborn Supplement.</p> <p>Newborn Supplement is a component of Family Tax Benefit Part A, paid over a three month period with your regular fortnightly Family Tax Benefit Part A payment.</p>	<p>Available from 1 March 2014</p>	<p>Children need to be 'fully immunised', be on a recognised immunisation catch up schedule, or have an approved exemption to be eligible for the Family Tax Benefit Part A supplement for that period.</p>
<p>Family Tax Benefit B</p> <p>http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/family-tax-benefit-part-a-part-b</p>	<p>Family Tax Benefit Part B gives extra help to single parents and families with one main income.</p> <p>You may be eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part B if you have care of a child for at least 35 per cent of the time who is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a dependent child under 16 years of age, or • a dependent full-time secondary student up until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 18 • <p>The rate of Family Tax Benefit Part B is based on an income test. You also need to meet residence requirements.</p>	<p>Any time</p>	<p>You will not be eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A or Part B if your child earns \$14,078 or more during the financial year and is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aged 5–15 years and not studying full time • aged 16–19 years and not in full-time secondary study, or exempt from this requirement.

INCOME SUPPORT - Note that all relevant Income Support Payments are listed on page 13			
What's Available.	Eligibility	Relevant Dates	Note
<p>Newstart Allowance</p> <p>http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/newstart-allowance</p>	<p>You may be eligible for Newstart Allowance if you are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aged 22 years or older but under Age Pension age • looking for suitable paid work • prepared to enter into an Employment Pathway Plan and meet the requirements included in the Employment Pathway Plan • not involved in industrial action • meet income and assets test requirements • meet activity test requirements • meet residence requirements 	<p>Any time</p>	<p>If you receive either Parenting Payment or Newstart Allowance, you may have to undertake activity test requirements.</p> <p>However, if you are a principal carer who is a registered and active foster carer, you may be eligible for an exemption for up to 12 months at a time.</p> <p>If you are a registered and active emergency and respite foster carer, but not a principal carer of a dependent child, you may be eligible to receive an exemption for the duration of any foster child placement, and for up to 12 weeks after the child has left your care while you are awaiting the placement of a new foster child.</p> <p>You will need to provide Centrelink with verification from DHS or your foster care agency.</p>

<p>Parenting Payment</p> <p>http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/parenting-payment</p>	<p>Parenting payment is paid to the principal carer of a child. Only 1 parent or guardian can receive the payment. You may qualify for Parenting Payment as a parent, grandparent, or foster carer, if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you are single and care for at least 1 child aged less than 8, or • you have a partner and care for at least 1 child aged less than 6, and • the income and assets of both you and your partner (if you have one) are below certain amounts • you meet residence requirements • are able to meet participation requirements if needed 	<p>Any time</p>	<p>Refer to notes re Newstart Allowance</p>
<p>Double Orphan Pension</p> <p>http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/double-orphan-pension</p>	<p>You may be eligible for Double Orphan Pension to assist with the costs of caring for orphaned children or children who are unable to be cared for by their parents in certain circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • care for a child where both parents are deceased, or • care for a child where one parent is deceased and the other parent is in prison, a psychiatric or nursing home, or is of unknown whereabouts, or • care for a child who is a refugee and the parents are outside of Australia or of unknown whereabouts • care for the child at least 35 per cent of the time 	<p>Any time</p>	<p>You do not have to meet income and assets tests to qualify for Double Orphan Pension. Double Orphan Pension is not taxed.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You receive Family Tax Benefit for the child (or would but your family's income is too high or the child is in receipt of a prescribed education payment—for example, ABSTUDY or Veterans Children Education Scheme). The child is under 16 years, or a full-time student aged 16–19 years (up to the end of the calendar year they turn 19), and they do not get Youth Allowance. The child does not receive Double Orphan Pension from the Department of Veterans' Affairs. 		
CHILD CARE			
What's Available.	Eligibility	Relevant Dates	Note
Childcare Benefit	If the child you look after attends an approved or registered child care facility, such as a child care centre, kindergarten, or before-and-after school care programs while you work, study or attend training, you may be able to claim Child Care Benefit.	Any time	<p>Children need to be 'fully immunised', be on a recognised immunisation catch up schedule, or have an approved exemption to be eligible for Child Care Benefit.</p> <p>Always ensure that payment and claim arrangements are clearly agreed to by your foster care agency and DHS prior to childcare commencing, and that the childcare provider is advised of these.</p>

			For more details and information, go to http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit
Childcare Rebate	<p>Child Care Rebate is not income tested. You may be eligible for Child Care Rebate if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you use a service approved for Child Care Benefit, and • you are eligible for Child Care Benefit, even if you earn too much to receive payment 	Any time	For more details and information, go to http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit
Grandparent Childcare Benefit	<p>Grandparent Child Care Benefit covers the full cost of approved child care for up to 50 hours for each child per week. It is paid directly to your child care service provider.</p> <p>You may be able to get Grandparent Child Care Benefit if you or your partner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are the biological, adoptive or step grandparent of the child • have primary care of a grandchild – this means that you are the person who is most responsible for meeting the child’s daily care needs, <u>and receive income support payments.</u> 	Any time	For more details and information, go to http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit

DISABILITY / HEALTH PAYMENTS			
What's Available.	Eligibility	Relevant Dates	Note
<p>Carer Payment (Child)</p> <p>http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/carer-payment</p>	<p>When applying for Carer Payment / Allowance, both the child and the carer must meet eligibility criteria.</p> <p>To receive Carer Payments, a child under 16 years must meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • require care in their home or in hospital • meet a combined income and assets test for • • the child being cared for, the parents and their dependent children. If the child being cared for does not live with a parent or legal guardian, only the income and assets of the child are assessed • meet the residence requirements, and either • be a child under 16 years with a severe disability or severe medical condition assessed by a treating health professional, or • be one of 2 to 4 children under 16 years with disabilities or medical conditions whose combined care needs are equal to that of a single child aged under 16 with a severe disability or severe medical condition, or • one of 1 or 2 children and an adult who each have disabilities or medical conditions, whose combined care needs are equal to that of a single child with a severe disability or severe medical condition, or 	<p>Any time</p>	<p>A carer who cares for a child under 16 years and receives Carer Payment, generally receives Carer Allowance automatically.</p> <p>Centrelink provides the Disability and Carers line on 132 717 should you need to make inquiries re these payments.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one of 2 or more children under 16 who individually or combined have a severe disabilities or severe medical conditions and are in an exchanged-care arrangement <p>The carer must meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personally provide constant care, in the home, to someone with a disability or medical condition, or who is frail aged • meet the income and assets tests • be living in Australia, and • meet residence requirements 		
<p>Carer Allowance (Child)</p> <p>http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/carers-allowance</p>	<p>Carer Allowance is a supplementary payment for carers who provide additional daily care and attention for someone <u>with a disability or medical condition</u>, or who is frail aged.</p> <p>To receive Carer Allowance, a child under 16 years must meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a dependent child under 16 years, and • have a condition from the list of recognised disabilities, or • be likely to suffer from the condition or disability permanently or for an extended period of at least 12 months, or • be two dependent children, with disabilities or medical conditions whose combined care needs are equal to that of a single child with a severe disability or severe medical condition, and • meet the residence requirements, and • receive care in their home or in hospital 	<p>Any time</p>	<p>A carer may be eligible for Carer Allowance for more than one person in their care.</p> <p>Carer Allowance is not income and asset tested, it can be paid in addition to wages or other income support payments such as Carer Payment or Age Pension.</p> <p>If you lodge a claim for Carer Allowance you may qualify for backdated payment.</p> <p>If you are caring for a child under 16 years, Carer Allowance can be backdated for up to 12 weeks prior to the date your claim was lodged.</p>

	<p>A young person aged 16 years and over must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be likely to suffer from the condition or disability permanently or for an extended period of at least 12 months, and • meet the residence requirements, and • receive care in either their home, their carer’s home or in hospital <p>To be eligible for Carer Allowance, carers must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide additional daily care and attention to a person with a disability or medical condition or someone who is frail aged, and meets the residence requirements 		<p>All eligibility requirements for Carer Allowance need to have been met during this period.</p> <p>If you are caring for a person 16 years or over, Carer Allowance can be backdated for up to 12 weeks prior to the date your claim was lodged if the care needs were caused by an acute event. All care requirements for Carer Allowance need to have been met during this period.</p> <p>An acute event is an illness or injury that occurs unexpectedly, for example a stroke, brain injury or car accident.</p>
<p>Child Disability Assistance Payment</p> <p>http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-disability-assistance-payment</p>	<p>This payment is an ongoing, non-indexed annual lump sum payment.</p> <p>To be eligible, you must have been paid Carer Allowance for a child under 16 years for a period that includes 1 July. This also includes Carer Allowance backdated to include 1 July.</p>	<p>Any time</p>	<p>Carer Allowance (child) recipients will receive a payment of up to \$1,000 for each child in their care.</p> <p>Some carers may receive 2 or more payments.</p> <p>Carers who receive a part rate of Carer Allowance under shared-care arrangements will also receive a part rate of this payment.</p>

<p>Carer Adjustment Payment</p> <p>http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/entrelink/carers-adjustment-payment</p>	<p>A one-off payment following a catastrophic event when a child under 7 years of age is diagnosed with a severe illness, medical condition or major disability.</p> <p>To be eligible for Carer Adjustment Payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you must provide full-time care for a child under 7 years of age who has been diagnosed with a severe illness, medical condition or major disability following a catastrophic event • the care is required for a minimum of 2 months • you must receive Carer Allowance for the child • you and your partner are not eligible for Carer Payment or other income support payments, and • you have a very strong need for financial support immediately after the catastrophic event <p>Claims for this payment must be lodged with us within 2 years from the date of diagnosis of a severe illness, medical condition or major disability following the catastrophic event.</p>	<p>Any time</p>	<p>Examples of catastrophic events may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • car accident • childhood stroke • diagnosis of a serious or severe illness such as childhood cancer • fall • fire • poisoning • near drowning • another type of accident <p>The maximum amount of Carer Adjustment Payment any family can receive is \$10,000 for each child in a single catastrophic event.</p> <p>The amount you receive is dependent on your family's circumstances. The payment is non-taxable.</p>
<p>Child Dental Benefits Schedule</p>	<p>Financial support for basic dental services for children aged 2–17. A child's eligibility is assessed at the beginning of each year and lasts the whole calendar year.</p> <p>A child is eligible if they are aged 2–17 years for at least 1 day of the calendar year, are eligible for Medicare and</p>	<p>Any time</p>	<p>In 2014, benefits for basic dental services are capped at \$1,000 per child over 2 consecutive calendar years.</p> <p>If you do not use all of your \$1,000 benefit in the first year of eligibility,</p>

	<p>are either part of a family receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A or one of the following</p> <p>Australian Government payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Allowance • ABSTUDY • Disability Support Pension • Parenting Payment • Special Benefit • Carer Payment • Double Orphan Pension • Veteran’s Children Education Scheme, if the child is 16 or over • Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme, if the child is 16 or over <p>Eligibility is determined each calendar year.</p>		<p>you can use it in the second year if you are still eligible.</p> <p>Any remaining balance will not be carried forward at the end of the second year.</p> <p>Benefits will cover a range of services including examinations, x-rays, cleaning, fissure sealing, fillings, root canals and extractions.</p> <p>Benefits are not available for orthodontic or cosmetic dental work and cannot be paid for any services provided in a hospital.</p> <p>Child Dental Benefits Schedule services will not count towards the Medicare Safety Net or the Extended Medicare Safety Net thresholds.</p>
<p>Foster Child Health Care Card</p> <p>http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/foster-child-health-care-card</p>	<p>You may be eligible for a Foster Child Health Care Card if you are a foster carer, or caring for someone else’s child.</p> <p>You do not need to be a formal foster carer, for example, caring for a ward of the state to be eligible for the Foster Child Health Care Card. Anyone, such as a grandparent, sibling or aunt, who is caring for a child that is not their natural or adopted child, is an informal foster carer and may be eligible.</p> <p>To be eligible for Foster Child Health Care Card you</p>	<p>Any time</p>	<p>The card is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not subject to an income or assets test • issued in the name of the child of your care • automatically reissued every 6 months if you are still eligible

	<p>must satisfy residence requirements. You must be living in Australia and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have Australian citizenship, or• hold a permanent visa, or• hold a special category visa <p>You must also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be physically present in Australia on the day you lodge your claim, and• continue to meet the residence requirements for as long as you hold this card <p>Your foster child must meet the above residence requirements or be living with you, and your foster child must be living with you for as long as you hold this card.</p>		
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Grandparent Advisors

Grandparent advisers are available in selected states to support, and provide advice to, grandparents and other carers (including foster carers) with full-time caring responsibility for children.

Grandparent advisers can help carers by:

- understanding family circumstances and
- providing information and access to Centrelink payments and services
- arranging appointments for you with Centrelink's specialist staff, such as social workers
- arranging referrals to other federal, state and community service providers who may also be able to help carers

Carers can speak to a grandparent adviser directly by calling **1800 245 965**. (Freecall)

Carers living outside the local area where grandparent advisers are based can still get help and support by calling the number above.

Income Support Payments:

A payment of:

- ABSTUDY Living Allowance (for the purposes of qualification for School Term Allowance only)
- Age Pension
- Austudy payment
- Bereavement Allowance
- Carer Payment
- Disability Support Pension (this does not include Disability Pension under Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), as this is classed as a compensation payment).
- Income Support Supplement
- Newstart Allowance
- Parenting Payment Partnered
- Parenting Payment Single
- Partner Allowance
- A Service Pension (this does not include Disability Pension under DVA, as this is classed as a compensation payment).
- Sickness Allowance
- Special Benefit
- Widow Allowance
- Widow B Pension
- Wife Pension
- Youth Allowance.

Note: Age Pension and Disability Support Pension (DSP) customers who are blind are paid free of the income and assets tests but are affected by the compensation provisions of the Social Security Act.