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Main income support payments and allowances

Source: Department of Family and Community Services

Payment	Eligibility	Recipients as at June 2003
<i>Income support payments</i>		
Age Pension	Men aged over 65 and women aged over 62, subject to residency, income and assets tests.	1,854,012
Parenting Payment	Carers of children under 16 years, primarily in single income families (including sole parent families) with low income. Parenting Payment Single is paid according to pension rates and conditions; Parenting Payment Partnered is an allowance.	Parenting Payment (Single) 436,958 Parenting Payment (Partnered) 181,405
Newstart Allowance	Unemployed persons aged over 21 and actively looking for work.	521,677
Disability Support Pension	People with a physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment that prevents them from working full-time (30 hours per week) for the next two years.	673,334
Carer Payment	People who provide full-time care to someone with a severe physical, intellectual or psychiatric disability who is expected to require this care for at least 6 months. Paid under pension conditions.	75,937
Youth Allowance	Full-time students under 25 and unemployed people aged 16-20 years. Income tested on both individual and parental income.	400,980
Sickness Allowance	People aged over 21 who are temporarily unable to work or study because of illness, injury or disability.	8,927

Austudy	Students aged 25 years and over; paid as an allowance.	39,092
Special Benefit	People ineligible for other assistance and in severe financial need due to circumstances beyond their control. Paid as an allowance.	12,228
Widow Allowance	Women aged over 50 who become widowed, divorced or separated and have no recent workforce experience.	43,209
<i>Other payments</i>		
Family Tax Benefit (A)	Families with children under 16 or full-time dependent students aged 16-24; income tested on family income	1,783,278 families
Family Tax Benefit (B)	Single income families, including sole parent families, especially those families with a child under the age of five (who receive a higher rate of payment). Income tested on second earner's income only in two-parent families.	1,223,560 families
Childcare Benefit	Families using either formal child care or informal (registered) child care. This subsidy either reduces fees at a child care service, or can be paid as a lump sum to parents at the end of the year. Income tested on family income.	517,000 families
Rent Assistance	Pensioners and beneficiaries boarding or renting (excluding public housing)	940,708 (number of persons or couples receiving assistance)

Source Department of Family and Community Services, *Senate Inquiry into Poverty and financial hardship*, Submission No. 165, p.36; Department of Family and Community Services *Annual Report 2002-03*, Vol 2 cited in *Senate Community Affairs References Committee: A hand up not a hand out: Renewing the fight against poverty*, p. 98.