

Pension Supplement



In the 2009 Federal Budget, the government announced a number of changes to the pension system as part of the Secure and Sustainable Pension reforms. This included the Pension Supplement.

What is the Pension Supplement?

The Pension Supplement helps you to meet the costs of your daily household and living expenses.

For customers who are eligible, the Pension Supplement combines the GST Supplement, Utilities Allowance, Telephone Allowance and Pharmaceutical Allowance.

Who can get the Pension Supplement?

You may be eligible for the Pension Supplement if you:

- are age pension age and receiving an income support payment from Centrelink, **or**
- are any age and you receive Bereavement Allowance, Carer Payment, Widow B Pension or Wife Pension, **or**
- receive Disability Support Pension, (excluding those under 21 years without dependent children).

The Pension Supplement will not be paid to pensioners paid under transitional arrangements arising from the pension income test changes. However, these pensioners will receive an equivalent amount in their transitional rate (see the *Transitional Rate of Pension* factsheet).

When will I receive the Pension Supplement?

The Pension Supplement is paid with your regular fortnightly income support payment. You do not have to apply for the Pension Supplement.

From 1 July 2010 you can choose to receive the minimum amount of the Pension Supplement quarterly.

How much is the Pension Supplement?

Refer to *A Guide to Australian Government Payments* booklet for the current rate of Pension Supplement.

The Pension Supplement is adjusted in March and September each year in line with the Consumer Price Index.

Is the Pension Supplement means tested?

The Pension Supplement is subject to the means test.

If your rate of payment is reduced once the means test has been applied, and you are eligible to receive some income support payment, you will receive at least the minimum amount of the Pension Supplement.

Is the Pension Supplement taxable?

The basic amount of the Pension Supplement is taxable only if your income support payment is taxable.



Will I still get the Pension Supplement if I leave Australia, either temporarily or permanently?

You can receive the Pension Supplement for up to 13 weeks if you depart Australia temporarily, as long as your primary income support payment is payable. If you are still outside Australia after 13 weeks, and your income support payment is payable, the Pension Supplement will reduce to the basic amount.

If you depart Australia permanently, and your income support payment is payable, you will receive the Pension Supplement basic amount.

How to contact us

Information about the changes to the pension system is available from www.centrelink.gov.au. If you want to talk to someone about how these changes may affect you, call the Centrelink retirement line on **13 2300** or the Centrelink Disability and Carers line on **13 2717**.

You can also ask to talk, free of charge, to a Financial Information Service officer about options with your savings, investments and related arrangements by calling the same number.

For more information

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

Retirement	13 2300
Disability and Carers	13 2717
Ask at a Centrelink Customer Service Centre	
Financial Information Service	13 2300
Financial Information Service seminar bookings	13 6357
Centrelink International Services	13 1673
Looking for work	13 2850
Parent or guardian	13 6150
To speak to Centrelink in languages other than English	13 1202
Australian Government Services Fraud and Tip-off line	13 1524
Customer Relations	Freecall™ 1800 050 004
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.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is intended only as a guide. The information is accurate as at September 2009. If you use this publication after that date, please check with Centrelink that the details are current.