

### Centrelink – What Are You Entitled To In 2017?

Centrelink provides a range of payments and services that may assist carers who provide care to a child or young person, as well as assistance to eligible young people and children. For more details please refer to the Centrelink official website <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/subjects/support-for-non-parent-carers>. For further information about available payments please call Centrelink **on 13 27 17**.

What's Available Family Benefits	Eligibility	Note
<p><b>Family Tax Benefit A</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"> <li>• aged 0-15 years, or</li> <li>• aged 16-19 years, paid until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 19, and:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ undertaking full-time education or training in an approved course leading towards a Year 12 or equivalent qualification</li> <li>✓ with an acceptable study load, or</li> <li>✓ has been granted an exemption from education or training requirements</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>You also need to satisfy an income test, meet residence requirements and be caring for the child at least 35 per cent of the 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>The child income limit no longer applies.</p> <p><a href="https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/family-tax-benefit">https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/family-tax-benefit</a></p>

<p><b>Family Tax Benefit B</b></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"> <li>• a dependent child under 16 years of age, or</li> <li>• a dependent full-time secondary student up until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 18</li> </ul> <p>The rate of Family Tax Benefit Part B is based on an income test.</p>	<p>There will be changes to Family Tax Benefit Part B from 1 July 2016.</p> <p>If you're a couple and your youngest child is 13 years or older you'll no longer be paid Family Tax Benefit Part B</p>
<p><b>Single Income Family Supplement (SIFS)</b></p>	<p>For each financial year you want to claim, you need to have had:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an eligible child in your care for at least 35% of that time</li> <li>• one main income earner whose income was between \$68,000 and \$150,000.</li> </ul> <p>If there is a secondary income earner in your family, you may still be eligible if their income is below \$18,000</p>	<p>If you receive Family Tax Benefit, you do not need to do anything to receive this payment.</p> <p>If you do not receive Family Tax Benefit and you have read about eligibility you should start your claim online</p> <p><a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/centrelink/single-income-family-supplement/claiming">http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/centrelink/single-income-family-supplement/claiming</a></p>
<p><b>Baby Bonus</b></p>	<p>Baby Bonus can no longer be claimed.</p>	<p>Refer to Newborn Upfront Payment and Newborn Supplement.</p>

<p><b>Newborn Upfront Payment and Newborn Supplement.</b></p>	<p>If a child comes into your care - for example, through foster care - you may be eligible for Newborn Upfront Payment and Newborn Supplement if:  the child is less than 1 year old  you are eligible for <u>Family Tax Benefit Part A</u> at a rate greater than nil, and  you will be entitled to Family Tax Benefit Part A for the child for at least 13 continuous weeks from the date you first become eligible.</p>	<p>When you <u>claim Family Tax Benefit</u>, Centrelink will automatically assess your eligibility for Newborn Upfront Payment and Newborn Supplement if you are not claiming Parental Leave Pay for the same child.</p> <p><a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/newborn-upfront-payment-and-newborn-supplement">http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/newborn-upfront-payment-and-newborn-supplement</a></p>
<p><b>Schoolkids Bonus</b></p>	<p>The Schoolkids Bonus was phased out in July 2016</p>	<p><a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/schoolkids-bonus">http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/schoolkids-bonus</a></p>

What's Available Allowances/Pensions	Eligibility	Note
<b>Newstart Allowance</b>	<p>You may be eligible for Newstart Allowance if you are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• aged 22 years or older but under Age Pension age</li> <li>• looking for suitable paid work</li> <li>• prepared to enter into an Employment Pathway Plan and meet the requirements included in the Employment Pathway Plan</li> <li>• not involved in industrial action</li> <li>• meet income and assets test requirements</li> <li>• meet activity test requirements</li> <li>• meet residence requirements</li> </ul>	<p>Mutual Obligation - 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, you may be exempt from your Mutual Obligation Requirements for the duration of any foster child placement plus 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><a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/newstart-allowance">http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/newstart-allowance</a></p>
<b>Parenting Payment</b>	<p>Parenting Payment is paid to the principal carer of a child. Only 1 parent or guardian can be the principal carer and receive the payment. You may qualify for Parenting Payment as a parent, grandparent, or foster carer, if:</p>	<p>Mutual Obligation Exemption – refer to Newstart Allowance notes above.</p> <p><a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/parenting-payment">http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/parenting-payment</a></p>

	<p>you are single and care for at least 1 child younger than 8 years of age, or  you have a partner and care for at least 1 child younger than 6 years of age, and  the income and assets of both you and your partner if you have one are below certain amounts  you meet residence requirements</p>	
<p><b>Double Orphan Pension</b></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 one of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• care for a child where both parents are deceased, or</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• care for a child who is a refugee and the parents are outside of Australia or of unknown whereabouts</li> </ul> <p>And all of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You provide care for the child for at least 35 per cent of the time.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The child is under 16 years, or a full-time student aged 16–19 years and they do not get Youth Allowance. A young person aged 19 will be</li> </ul>	<p>You do not have to meet income and assets tests to qualify for Double Orphan Pension. Double Orphan Pension is not taxed.</p> <p>The Double Orphan Pension payment rate is \$62 per fortnight and is not taxed.</p> <p>You may receive an additional amount of Double Orphan Pension depending on the amount of Family Tax Benefit paid for the child before they became an orphan.</p> <p>Double Orphan Pension payment rates are adjusted on 1 January each year and reviewed every two years or when your circumstances change.</p> <p><a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/double-orphan-pension">http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/double-orphan-pension</a></p>

	<p>eligible for Double Orphan Pension up to the end of the calendar year in which they turn 19 as long as they are in full-time secondary study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The child does not receive Double Orphan Pension from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.</li> </ul>	
<b>What's Available Childcare</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>Note</b>
<b>Childcare Benefit</b>	<p>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.</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 Child Care Benefit.</p> <p><u>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.</u></p> <p><a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit">http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit</a></p>
<b>Childcare Rebate</b>	<p>Child Care Rebate is not income tested. You may be eligible for Child Care Rebate if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>you use a Child Care Benefit approved child care service</li> </ul>	<p>The amount of Child Care Rebate is based on 50% of your out of pocket expenses.</p> <p>The maximum amount of Child Care Rebate you can get is \$7,500 per child per year. The maximum amount payable is called the cap amount.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you are eligible for Child Care Benefit, even if you earn too much to receive payment, and</li> <li>• you and your partner meet the Work, Training, Study test or are exempt from it.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-rebate">http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-rebate</a>
<b>What's Available Carer Assistance</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>Note</b>
<b>Carer Payment (Child)</b>	<p>When applying for Carer Payment / Allowance, both the child and the carer must meet eligibility criteria.</p> <p>The carer must meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personally provide constant care, in the home, to someone with a disability or medical condition, or who is frail aged</li> <li>• meet the income and assets tests</li> <li>• be living in Australia, and</li> <li>• meet residence requirements</li> </ul>	<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 <b>13 27 17</b> should you need to make inquiries re these payments.</p> <p><a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/centrelink/carers-payment/eligibility">http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/centrelink/carers-payment/eligibility</a></p>
<b>Carer Allowance (Child)</b>	<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>A carer may be eligible for Carer Allowance for more than one person in their care.</p>

	<p>To be eligible for Carer Allowance, carers must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<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>A carer for a child under 16 years who receives Carer Payment, generally receives Carer Allowance automatically.</p> <p><a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/carer-allowance">http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/carer-allowance</a></p>
<p><b>Child Disability Assistance Payment</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-disability-assistance-payment">http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-disability-assistance-payment</a></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>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. Carers who receive a part rate of Carer Allowance under shared-care arrangements will also receive a part rate of this payment.</p>
<p><b>Carer Adjustment Payment</b></p>	<p>To be eligible for Carer Adjustment Payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• the care is required for a minimum of 2 months</li> <li>• you must receive Carer Allowance for the child</li> </ul>	<p>Examples of catastrophic events may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• car accident</li> <li>• childhood stroke</li> <li>• diagnosis of a serious or severe illness such as childhood cancer</li> <li>• fall</li> <li>• fire</li> <li>• poisoning</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you and your partner are not eligible for Carer Payment or other income support payments,</li> </ul> <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you have a very strong need for financial support immediately after the catastrophic event</li> </ul> <p>Claims for this payment must be lodged within 2 years from the date of diagnosis of a severe illness, medical condition or major disability following the catastrophic event.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• near drowning</li> <li>• another type of accident</li> </ul> <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><a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/carer-adjustment-payment">http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/carer-adjustment-payment</a></p>
<b>What's Available</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>Note</b>
<b>Child Dental Benefits Schedule</b>	<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>are either part of a family receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A or an Income Support Payment.</p> <p>Eligibility is determined each calendar year.</p>	<p>From January 2014, eligible families, teenagers and approved care organisations will receive a letter to confirm eligibility.</p> <p>Benefits for basic dental services are capped at \$1,000 per child over 2 consecutive calendar years.</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><a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/child-dental-benefits-schedule">http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/child-dental-benefits-schedule</a></p>
<b>Foster Child Health Care Card</b>	<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>The card is not subject to an income or assets test; is issued in the name of the child of your care; is automatically reissued every 6 months if you are still eligible.</p> <p><a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/foster-child-health-care-card">http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/foster-child-health-care-card</a></p>

### Centrelink Advisors

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

These 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

The service is available to carers on **1800 245 965. (Freecall)**.

If visiting a local Centrelink office, FCAV recommends that carers make an appointment with a social worker to discuss inquiries and issues regarding entitlements available through Centrelink.

[www.fcav.org.au/carerresources/information-sheets](http://www.fcav.org.au/carerresources/information-sheets)

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