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Australian Government
Department of Human Services

THLGC

Tabled by:

Jo-An Miller MP

At: 1.37pm

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Time/date:

Estimates

Signature:

cmgucken

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Newstart Allowance

Financial help if you are looking for work. It supports you while you do activities that may increase your chances of finding a job, such as studying or training.

Eligibility basics

- aged 22 years or more but under Age Pension age
- looking for paid work
- prepared to meet the activity test while you are looking for work
- meet an income and assets test

Looking for your Centrelink payment summary? Read more about the [change to annual payment summaries^{\[4\]}](#).

Eligibility & payment rates

Eligibility for Newstart Allowance

You need to meet eligibility requirements to claim Newstart Allowance.

[Read more about eligibility for Newstart Allowance^{\[5\]}](#)

Payment rates for Newstart Allowance

The payment rates for Newstart Allowance are updated on 20 March and 20 September each year and are a guide only.

If you are:	Your maximum fortnightly payment is:
single, no children	\$497.00
single, with a dependent child or children	\$537.80
single, aged 60 or over, after nine continuous months on payment	\$537.80
partnered (each)	\$448.70
single principal carer granted activity test exemption for either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • foster caring • non-parent relative caring under a court order • home schooling • distance education • large family 	\$683.50

Waiting periods

Depending on your circumstances, you may need to wait for a period of time before receiving your first income support payment. This is because various [waiting periods^{\[6\]}](#) can be applied to your claim.

Income test, assets tests and working credit

The amount of Newstart Allowance you get depends on both your income and your assets, including liquid assets which are funds available to you or your partner.

Income test

As a Newstart Allowance customer, you can earn up to \$62 per fortnight before tax, before your payment is affected.

Income above \$62 and up to \$250 per fortnight reduces your fortnightly payment by 50 cents in the dollar. Income above \$250 per fortnight reduces your payment by 60 cents in the dollar.

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Payment rates for Rent Assistance

The following tables show how much Rent Assistance you can get. These payment rates are updated on 20 March and 20 September each year.

Rent Assistance rates if you do not have dependent children

Family situation	Maximum payment per fortnight	No payment if your fortnightly rent is less than	Maximum payment if your fortnightly rent is more than
Single, with no children	\$123.00	\$109.20	\$273.20
Single, with no children, sharer	\$82.00	\$109.20	\$218.53
Couple, with no children	\$115.60	\$177.60	\$331.73
One of a couple who are separated due to illness, with no children	\$123.00	\$109.20	\$273.20
One of a couple who are temporarily separated, with no children	\$115.60	\$109.20	\$263.33

Note: Separated couple includes respite care and partner in prison.

Rent Assistance rates if you have dependent children

If you have dependent children, you will usually get Rent Assistance with [Family Tax Benefit Part A^{\[2\]}](#).

Family situation	Maximum payment per fortnight	No payment if your fortnightly rent is less than	Maximum payment if your fortnightly rent is more than
Single, one or two children	\$144.06	\$143.64	\$335.72
Single, three or more children	\$162.96	\$143.64	\$360.92
Couple, one or two children	\$144.06	\$212.66	\$404.74
Couple, three or more children	\$162.96	\$212.66	\$429.94

Special rules apply if you are a single sharer, pay board and lodging, or live in a retirement village.

Link references

- http://app.as.readspeaker.com/cgi-bin/rsent?customerid=5525&lang=en_au&voice=Karen&readid=content&url=http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/centrelink/rent-assistance/payment-rates
- <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/family-tax-benefit-part-a-part-b>