



Payments to support households

These payments will provide assistance to lower income Australians, including pensioners, other social security and veteran income support recipients and eligible concession card holders.

Economic Support Payments

Summary

The Government has provided two separate \$750 payments to social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders. Around half of those that benefit are pensioners. These payments will support households to manage the economic impact of the Coronavirus.

- The first payment was available to people who are eligible payment recipients and concession card holders at any time from 12 March 2020 to 13 April 2020 inclusive.
- The second payment was available to people who are eligible payment recipients and concession card holders on 10 July 2020.

The Government is providing a further two additional Economic Support Payments of \$250 to pensioners, other social security recipients, veterans and eligible concession card holders to assist them through the ongoing financial challenges they are continuing to face as a result of the Coronavirus.

- The third payment will be available to people who are eligible payment recipients and concession card holders on 27 November 2020.
- The fourth payment will be available to people who are eligible payment recipients and concession card holders on 26 February 2021.

A person can be eligible to receive all of these support payments. However, they can only receive one payment in each round of payments, even if they qualify in each round of the payments in multiple ways.

The payment will be exempt from taxation and will not count as income for the purposes of social security, Farm Household Allowance and veteran payments.

Eligibility for the first payment

To be eligible for the first payment, you must have been residing in Australia and be receiving one of the following payments, or hold one of the following concession cards, at any time from 12 March 2020 to 13 April 2020, inclusive:

- Age Pension
- Disability Support Pension
- Carer Payment
- Parenting Payment
- Wife Pension
- Widow B Pension
- ABSTUDY (Living Allowance)
- Austudy
- Bereavement Allowance
- Newstart Allowance
- JobSeeker Payment
- Youth Allowance
- Partner Allowance
- Sickness Allowance
- Special Benefit
- Widow Allowance
- Family Tax Benefit, including Double Orphan Pension
- Carer Allowance
- Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holders
- Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders
- Veteran Service Pension; Veteran Income Support Supplement; Veteran Compensation payments, including lump sum payments; War Widow(er) Pension; and Veteran Payment.
- DVA PCC holders; DVA Education Scheme recipients; Disability Pensioners at the temporary special rate; DVA Income support pensioners at \$0 rate.
- Veteran Gold Card holders
- Farm Household Allowance

Where someone has lodged a claim for one of the eligible payments or concession cards at any time from 12 March to 13 April 2020 inclusive, and the claim is subsequently granted, they will also receive the payment.

The first payment was made to approximately 7 million social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders. Around half of those who benefitted were pensioners.

Eligibility for the second payment

To be eligible for the second payment, you must have been residing in Australia and be receiving one of the payments or holding one of the concession cards that was eligible for the first payment, except for those who were receiving an income support payment that is eligible to receive the Coronavirus Supplement.

Income support recipients who are eligible to receive the Coronavirus Supplement are:

- JobSeeker Payment (and payments progressively transitioning into JobSeeker Payment including Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance)
- Youth Allowance
- Parenting Payment (Partnered and Single)
- Austudy
- ABSTUDY (Living Allowance)
- Farm Household Allowance
- Special Benefit

The second payment was made to around 5 million social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders. Over half of those who benefitted were pensioners.

Eligibility for the third and fourth payment

To be eligible for the third and fourth payment, you must be residing in Australia and be receiving one of the following payments or holding one of the following concession cards on the relevant test dates – 27 November 2020 for the third payment and 26 February 2021 for the fourth payment.

- Age Pension
- Disability Support Pension
- Carer Payment
- Carer Allowance*
- Family Tax Benefit* Parts A and B
- Double Orphan Pension*
- Commonwealth Seniors Health Card
- Pensioner Concession Card*
- Eligible veteran payments and concession cards

* Not in receipt of a primary income support payment.

The third and fourth payments will be made to around 5 million social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders. Over half of those who will benefit are pensioners.

Payment dates

| Date | |
|-----------------------|--|
| First Payment | Paid automatically from 31 March 2020 |
| Second Payment | Paid automatically from 13 July 2020 |
| Third Payment | Paid automatically from 30 November 2020 |
| Fourth Payment | Paid automatically from 1 March 2021 |

Payments will be made by Services Australia or the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

If you are a holder of a Veteran Gold Card, you will be contacted to confirm your account details so the payment can be made as soon as possible.

Example — First and second payment

Kate and Angus are a couple and are both Age Pension recipients as at 12 March 2020. Kate and Angus will each receive \$750, so their household will receive \$1,500 in total. Payments to Kate and Angus will be made automatically from 31 March 2020.

As Kate and Angus remain both a couple and Age Pension recipients on 10 July 2020, they will each be eligible for a further \$750 as part of the second payment, so their household will receive \$1,500 in total for the second payment.

This will bring the total payment to their household to \$3,000, from the first and second payments.

Example — Interaction between Coronavirus Supplement and second payment

Leanne is a single parent JobSeeker Payment recipient on 10 July 2020, receiving a base rate of \$612 per fortnight, a further \$9.50 per fortnight for the Energy Supplement and an additional \$550 per fortnight of Coronavirus Supplement.

This brings Leanne’s fortnightly income support payment to \$1,171.50.

Leanne was in receipt of the Jobseeker Payment on 30 March so she was eligible for the first \$750 payment.

As Leanne already receives the \$550 per fortnight Coronavirus Supplement, she will not be eligible for the second \$750 payment.

Example — Third and fourth payment

Pam and John are a couple and are both Age Pension recipients as at 27 November 2020. Pam and John will each receive \$250, so their household will receive \$500 in total. Payments to Pam and John will be made automatically from 30 November 2020.

As Pam and John remain both a couple and Age Pension recipients on 26 February 2021, they will each be eligible for a further \$250 as part of the fourth payment, so their household will receive \$500 in total for the fourth payment automatically from 1 March 2021.

Pam and John also received the first and second payments, so this will bring the total payment to their household to \$4,000.

For more information

For more information on the Australian Government’s Economic Response to the Coronavirus, visit treasury.gov.au/coronavirus.

Benefits eligible for economic support payments

| | First Economic Support Payment | Second Economic Support Payment | Third Economic Support Payment | Fourth Economic Support Payment |
|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Test date/period | 12 March 2020 to 13 April 2020 | 10 July 2020 | 27 November 2020 | 26 February 2020 |
| Amount | \$750 | \$750 | \$250 | \$250 |
| Payment type | | | | |

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| | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---|---|---|
| Age Pension | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Carer Payment | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Disability Support Pension | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Parenting Payment Single | ✓ | | | |
| Parenting Payment Partnered | ✓ | | | |
| Youth Allowance Other | ✓ | | | |
| Youth Allowance Student | ✓ | | | |
| Austudy Payment | ✓ | | | |
| ABSTUDY Living Allowance | ✓ | | | |
| Special Benefit | ✓ | | | |
| Double Orphan Pension | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| JobSeeker Payment | ✓ | | | |
| Wife Pension | ✓ | n/a^ | n/a^ | n/a^ |
| Widow B Pension | ✓ | n/a^ | n/a^ | n/a^ |
| Widow Allowance | ✓ | | | |
| Partner Allowance | ✓ | | | |
| Sickness Allowance | ✓ | | | |
| Bereavement Allowance | ✓ | ✓ | n/a^ | n/a^ |
| Carer Allowance | ✓ (Per recipient) | ✓ (Per recipient) Must not be receiving Coronavirus Supplement | ✓ (Per recipient) Not in receipt of a primary income support payment | ✓ (Per recipient) Not in receipt of a primary income support payment |
| Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Pensioner Concession Card | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

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| | | Must not be receiving Coronavirus Supplement | Not in receipt of a primary income support payment | Not in receipt of a primary income support payment |
|---|----------------------|--|--|--|
| Family Tax Benefit (including Double Orphan Pension) | ✓ (Per recipient) | ✓ (Per recipient) Must not be receiving Coronavirus Supplement | ✓ (Per recipient) Not in receipt of a primary income support payment | ✓ (Per recipient) Not in receipt of a primary income support payment |
| Farm Household Allowance | ✓ | | | |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs payment recipients | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card holders | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Department of Veterans' Affairs Education Scheme recipients | ✓ | | | |

^ Wife Pension and Widow B Pension ceased on 20 March 2020 and people moved onto Age Pension, Carer Payment or JobSeeker Payment depending on their individual circumstances. Sickness Allowance and Bereavement Allowance also ceased on 20 March 2020, with current recipients remaining on payment until the end of their period of sickness or bereavement.