



## Payments for pensioners, seniors, people with disability, carers and veterans

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### Who is eligible?

You will receive the lump sum payment if, on 14 October 2008, you received one of the following payments:

- Age Pension
- Disability Support Pension
- Carer Payment
- Wife or Widow B Pension
- Partner, Widow or Bereavement Allowance
- Veterans' Affairs Service Pension
- Veterans' Affairs Income Support Supplement

or

- held a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card
- held a Veterans' Affairs Gold Card and were also eligible for Seniors Concession Allowance
- were of Age Pension age and received Parenting Payment, Special Benefit, Austudy or ABSTUDY Living Allowance.

If you were entitled to Carer Allowance on 14 October 2008 you will be eligible for a lump sum payment for each eligible person in your care.

### How much is the payment?

If you received an eligible pension or allowance, or held an eligible concession card, you will receive:

- \$1,400 if you are single or
- \$1,050 for each eligible member of a couple.

If you are entitled to Carer Allowance, you will receive \$1,000 for each eligible person in your care. If you are sharing care with another person you will receive a portion of the \$1,000 payment based on the percentage of care provided.

### When and how will the payment be made?

In most cases, payment will be made automatically to your bank account during the fortnight **8 to 19 December 2008**.

A letter will be sent to you confirming the payment.

You do not need to do anything to receive your lump sum payment.

### Exceptions:

**Overseas Residents** - if you live overseas on a long-term basis and receive your payments four

weekly, the ESS payment will be paid on 30 December 2008 with your regular payment. A letter will be sent to you confirming the payment.

**Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC) holders** - if you are a CSHC holder who does not currently receive Seniors Concession Allowance, you will need to contact [Centrelink](#) to provide your bank account details. If you have not provided your bank account details before 5 December 2008, you will be paid by cheque.

### **Is it possible to get both the payments for pensioners, carers, seniors and veterans and the payment for families?**

Yes, if you are eligible for more than one payment.

[More information on payment for families](#)

### **Is the payment considered income?**

No. The payment is not taxable and is not considered income for social security or family assistance purposes.

### **Will I get a part lump sum payment if I receive a part pension?**

If you received a part payment of an eligible pension on 14 October 2008, you will receive the full lump sum payment.

If you receive a part rate of Carer Allowance because you share care with another person, you will receive a portion of the \$1,000 based on the percentage of care provided.

### **Will my payment be used to repay an existing Centrelink debt?**

No. The Economic Security Strategy payments will not be used to recover existing Centrelink debts. If you are eligible for an Economic Security Strategy payment it will be paid in full.

### **Can I be asked to pay back my Economic Security Strategy payment?**

Centrelink cannot ask you to pay back the Economic Security Strategy payment unless it is later found that you knowingly made a misleading statement or provided false information to obtain the payment.

### **Will the payment be income managed?**

Yes. If your regular government payments are income managed, your Economic Security Strategy payment will be income managed.

### **Can I review or appeal a lump sum payment?**

If you would like to review or appeal a decision made about your Centrelink entitlements, there are several steps you can take. Visit the [Centrelink website](#) to find out more.

## **More information**

For more information about the payments call:

- Centrelink Retirement Services **13 2300**
- Centrelink Disability, Sickness and Carers **13 2717**
- Department of Veterans' Affairs **13 3254**

## **Related information**

[Payment for families](#)

[First Home Owners Boost](#)

[Seniors](#)

[Disabilities](#)

[Carers](#)

[Commonwealth Financial Counselling](#)

[Emergency Relief Program](#)

[Crisis Payment](#)

**Related sites:**

[Prime Minister of Australia media release](#)

[Centrelink](#)

[Family Assistance Office](#)

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