

## Fact Sheet - Cessation of Bereavement Allowance

### What is happening with Bereavement Allowance?

- Bereavement Allowance was closed to new recipients on 20 March 2020 and it will cease completely once the bereavement period of all recipients has ended.

### Changes from 20 March 2020

- From 20 March 2020, bereavement assistance has become available through JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance.
  - Bereaved persons whose partner has died can make a claim for assistance through these payments. These bereaved persons may be exempt from certain waiting periods (such as the Ordinary Waiting Period and Liquid Assets Waiting Period); ensuring they get early access to JobSeeker Payment.
  - Bereavement assistance includes an upfront lump sum payment with the recipient's first fortnightly payment to assist with the costs associated with the death of a partner.
- Should a recipient require further income support after their bereavement period ends there is no longer any need to apply for another payment if they remain qualified for JobSeeker Payment or Youth Allowance.
- The upfront lump sum payment amount depends on the recipient's payment type, their rate of payment and whether the recipient was pregnant when their partner died.
- Bereaved JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance recipients who are not pregnant receive an upfront lump sum payment calculated as a multiple of their daily payment rate:
  - Bereaved JobSeeker Payment recipients receive a lump sum payment equal to their daily rate multiplied by 14 and 4.5.
  - Bereaved Youth Allowance recipients receive a lump sum payment equal to their daily rate multiplied by 14 and 7.
- Pregnant bereaved recipients receive an upfront lump sum payment calculated as their daily rate multiplied by 14 and 3, plus an additional amount determined by their remaining length of pregnancy.
  - The amount of the pregnancy component is dependent on the period between death of partner and birth of child and the payment a recipient receives. The amount is a minimum of \$1,000 for JobSeeker Payment or \$2,000 for Youth Allowance (see table below).
- A person receiving or claiming JobSeeker Payment whose partner has recently died may be temporarily exempted from mutual obligation requirements for 14 weeks.

- For a woman who was pregnant when her partner died, the exemption starts on the day the partner died and ends the later of:
  - 14 weeks, or
  - when the pregnancy ends.

### **Payment Background**

- Bereavement Allowance is a short-term income support payment that provides financial assistance to recently bereaved persons in the period immediately following the death of their partner.
- Bereaved persons must lodge a claim for Bereavement Allowance and if they require further income support after their bereavement payment ends, they must claim another income support payment.
- Bereavement Allowance is generally payable for up to 14 weeks.
- If a woman is pregnant at the time of her partner's death, Bereavement Allowance is payable from the claim date until the birth of the child, the end of the pregnancy or for up to 14 weeks, whichever results in the longest period.
- Bereavement Allowance is paid at the Age Pension rate.
  - Bereavement Allowance recipients also receive Pension Supplement and Energy Supplement.
- As at September 2019, there were around 108 people receiving Bereavement Allowance.

## ADDITIONAL LUMP SUM AMOUNT FOR BEREAVED PREGNANT WOMEN

### JobSeeker Payment:

<b>If the period between death of partner and birth of child is:</b>	<b>the additional amount is:</b>
14 weeks or less	\$1,000
More than 14 weeks but not more than 16 weeks	\$1,150
More than 16 weeks but not more than 18 weeks	\$1,500
More than 18 weeks but not more than 20 weeks	\$1,850
More than 20 weeks but not more than 22 weeks	\$2,150
More than 22 weeks but not more than 24 weeks	\$2,500
More than 24 weeks but not more than 26 weeks	\$2,850
More than 26 weeks but not more than 28 weeks	\$3,200
More than 28 weeks but not more than 30 weeks	\$3,550
More than 30 weeks but not more than 32 weeks	\$3,900
More than 32 weeks	\$4,250

### Youth Allowance:

<b>If the period between death of partner and birth of child is:</b>	<b>the additional amount is:</b>
14 weeks or less	\$2,000
More than 14 weeks but not more than 16 weeks	\$2,250
More than 16 weeks but not more than 18 weeks	\$2,700
More than 18 weeks but not more than 20 weeks	\$3,150
More than 20 weeks but not more than 22 weeks	\$3,550
More than 22 weeks but not more than 24 weeks	\$4,000
More than 24 weeks but not more than 26 weeks	\$4,450
More than 26 weeks but not more than 28 weeks	\$4,900
More than 28 weeks but not more than 30 weeks	\$5,350
More than 30 weeks but not more than 32 weeks	\$5,800
More than 32 weeks	\$6,250

## **Cameos**

### **1. Madhuri**

- Madhuri claims Bereavement Allowance after her husband dies on 3 March 2020.
- Madhuri is unemployed and is eligible to receive Bereavement Allowance for 14 weeks until 8 June 2020.
- Madhuri's payment is not affected when Bereavement Allowance closes to new recipients on 20 March 2020.
- Madhuri still requires income support at the end of her bereavement period and claims JobSeeker Payment from 9 June 2020.

### **2. Roxanne**

- Roxanne claims Bereavement Allowance after her husband dies on 10 March 2020.
- Roxanne is pregnant and her baby is due on 30 June 2020.
- Roxanne is eligible to receive Bereavement Allowance for 16 weeks until 29 June 2020.
- Roxanne's payment is not affected when Bereavement Allowance closes to new recipients on 20 March 2020, and will continue to be paid until 29 June 2020, which is the day before her baby is born.
- Roxanne can claim Parenting Payment Single from 30 June 2020 when her baby is born.

### **3. Giorgio**

- Giorgio and his wife Barbara claim JobSeeker Payment on 27 March 2020.
- Barbara dies on 8 May 2020 and Giorgio advises Services Australia (Centrelink) of her death on 15 May 2020.
- Giorgio receives the maximum single rate of JobSeeker Payment and is eligible for a one-off lump sum bereavement payment.
- Giorgio is paid JobSeeker Payment for the 14 week bereavement period and receives the upfront lump sum in his first fortnightly entitlement period after notifying of his wife's death.
- Giorgio is also exempt from his mutual obligation requirements for 14 weeks until 13 August 2020.
- As Giorgio still requires income support at the end of the bereavement period, he remains on JobSeeker Payment and has mutual obligation requirements.

### **4. Sakura**

- Sakura claims JobSeeker Payment on 3 April 2020 after her partner dies on 27 March 2020.
- Sakura is pregnant and her baby is due on 24 April 2020.
- Sakura receives the maximum single rate of JobSeeker Payment and is eligible for an upfront lump sum bereavement payment.
- As Sakura's baby is due in less than 14 weeks, her bereavement period is 14 weeks and an additional amount of \$1,000 is added to her upfront lump sum.
- Sakura is paid JobSeeker Payment for the 14 week bereavement payment and receives the upfront lump sum in her first fortnightly entitlement period after notifying of her partner's death.

- Sakura is also exempt from her mutual obligation requirements until 3 July 2020.
- Sakura claims Parenting Payment Single from 4 July 2020 when her baby is born.

#### **5. Nikki**

- Nikki and her husband Bob are both 21 and live away from home.
- Both of them claim Youth Allowance on 25 March 2020.
- Bob dies on 10 May 2020 and Nikki advises Centrelink of his death on 12 May 2020.
- Nikki receives the maximum single rate of Youth Allowance and is eligible for a one-off lump sum bereavement payment.
- Nikki is paid Youth Allowance for the 14 week bereavement period and receives the one-off lump sum in her first fortnightly entitlement period after notifying of her husband's death.
- Nikki is also exempt from her mutual obligation requirements for 14 weeks until 16 August 2020.
- As Nikki still requires income support at the end of the bereavement period, she remains on Youth Allowance and has mutual obligation requirements. Once she reaches 22 years of age she will be eligible for JobSeeker Payment.

#### **6. Catherine**

- Catherine claims JobSeeker Payment on 5 June 2020 after her husband dies on 8 May 2020.
- As Catherine received a large inheritance that puts her assets over the limit for JobSeeker Payment, her claim is rejected.
- Catherine is therefore not eligible for bereavement assistance through JobSeeker Payment.