



Enhanced social security safety net

JobSeeker Payment and other working age payments

From 1 April 2021 a series of permanent changes has ensured job seekers have the best opportunity to secure employment.

1. Increasing the rate of working age payments

From 1 April 2021, 1.9 million payment recipients will receive an increase of \$50 a fortnight to their payments.

This will apply to:

- JobSeeker Payment
- Youth Allowance (including Youth Disability Support Pension)
- Parenting Payment
- Austudy
- ABSTUDY (Living Allowance)
- Special Benefit
- Partner Allowance
- Widow Allowance
- Farm Household Allowance, and
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Education Scheme.

2. Increasing the income free area for working age payments

From 1 April 2021, the income free area for JobSeeker Payment, Youth Allowance (other) and Parenting Payment (Partnered) and related payments has been permanently increased to \$150 per fortnight.

This change will allow payment recipients to keep more of what they earn while receiving income support from 1 April 2021.

3. Strengthening mutual obligation requirements

Strengthened mutual obligation requirements has ensured that job seekers have the best opportunity to secure employment as our nation continues to recover from the economic challenges of COVID-19.

Early March 2021, compulsory face-to-face service delivery has been re-introduced for job seekers and participants where it is safe to do so.

1 April 2021, job seekers in jobactive, DES and Online Employment Services are required to search for 15 jobs a month.

From 1 July 2021, the minimum job search requirement for job seekers in jobactive, DES and Online Employment Services will return to the pre-COVID-19 requirement of 20 job searches per month.

From October 2021, job seekers who have been unemployed for six months will be required to participate in an activity, such as a short training course or Work for the Dole, in addition to their job search activities.

From October 2021, job seekers in the Online Employment Service will be required to complete their Career Profile before receiving income support and review their profile every six months as part of their Job Plan requirement.

There will also be a:

- strengthening of auditing processes to identify those submitting non-genuine or deliberately poor-quality job application in order to meet job search targets; and
- establishment of a reporting line for employers to report job seekers not genuinely looking for work, or turning down work.

4. Extension of some temporary measures

To ensure that individuals are supported during the recovery from COVID-19 a number of temporary measures have been extended from 1 April 2021.

- The extension of eligibility to those self-isolating or caring for someone required to self-isolate was extended until 30 June 2021.
- The waiver of the Ordinary Waiting Period was extended for all payments until 30 June 2021.
- Temporary pension portability extensions for pensioners unable to return to their usual place of residence within 26 weeks due to circumstances beyond their control was extended until 30 June 2021.

The extension of these measures will allow individuals who are out of work, required to self-isolate or unable to return to Australia will continue to be able to access support.

For more information on eligibility, payment rates and how to make a claim for JobSeeker Payment please go to the [Services Australia](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au) website: www.servicesaustralia.gov.au

5. Conclusion of some temporary measures

In recognition of the ongoing economic recovery, some temporary measures were not extended beyond 31 March 2021.

- The partner income test taper rate will revert to 60 cents for every dollar above the partner income free area.
- The waiver of the Seasonal Work Preclusion Period will cease.
- The waiver of the Newly Arrived Residents' Waiting Period (NARWP) will cease. A person who received payment while the NARWP was waived will be taken to have been serving the NARWP during that time and this period will count towards the completion of the NARWP.
- The waiver of the requirement to provide verification of relationship status when claiming payment will cease.
- The temporarily increased grace periods for Mobility Allowance will cease.

Current and future rates and income free areas

Current Payment	Cohort	Current Rate (pf)	Increase (pf)	1 April 2021 rate (pf)	Current Income Free Area (pf) (pre-COVID-19 settings)	1 April 2021 Income Free Area (pf)
JobSeeker Payment, Widow Allowance, Partner Allowance	Single	\$565.70	+ \$50.00	\$620.80*	\$106	\$150
	Single with child	\$612.00	+ \$50.00	\$667.50*	\$106	\$150
	Single aged 60+ after 9 months	\$612.00	+ \$50.00	\$667.50*	\$106	\$150
	Single principal carer with mutual obligations exemption	\$793.10~	+ \$50.00	\$850.20*~	\$106	\$150
	Partnered (with or without children)	\$510.80	+ \$50.00	\$565.40*	\$106	\$150
Parenting Payment	Single with child aged under 8	\$793.10~	+ \$50.00	\$850.20*~	\$192.60 plus \$24.60 per additional child	\$192.60 plus \$24.60 per additional child
	Partnered with child aged under 6	\$510.80	+ \$50.00	\$565.40*	\$106	\$150
	Partnered with child aged under 6 and illness separated or partner in prison	\$612.00	+ \$50.00	\$667.50*	\$106	\$150
Youth Allowance (Other)	Single under 18 at home	\$253.20	+ \$50.00	\$303.20	\$143	\$150
	Single 18 - 21 at home	\$304.60	+ \$50.00	\$354.60	\$143	\$150
	Single under 18 away from home	\$462.50	+ \$50.00	\$512.50	\$143	\$150
	Single 18 - 21 away from home	\$462.50	+ \$50.00	\$512.50	\$143	\$150
	Single principal carer with mutual obligations exemption	\$793.10~	+ \$50.00	\$850.20*~	\$143	\$150
	Single with child	\$606.00	+ \$50.00	\$656.00	\$143	\$150
	Partnered, no child	\$462.50	+ \$50.00	\$512.50	\$143	\$150
	Partnered with child	\$507.90	+ \$50.00	\$557.90	\$143	\$150
Austudy	Single with child	\$606.00	+ \$50.00	\$656.00	\$437	\$437
	Single	\$462.50	+ \$50.00	\$512.50	\$437	\$437
	Partnered, no child	\$462.50	+ \$50.00	\$512.50	\$437	\$437
	Partnered with child	\$507.90	+ \$50.00	\$557.90	\$437	\$437
	Single no child, long-term	\$561.90	+ \$50.00	\$611.90	\$437	\$437
	Partnered no child, long-term	\$507.90	+ \$50.00	\$557.90	\$437	\$437
Youth Allowance (Student and Apprentice)	Single with child	\$606.00	+ \$50.00	\$656.00	\$437	\$437
	Single under 18 at home	\$253.20	+ \$50.00	\$303.20	\$437	\$437
	Single 18 - 24 at home	\$304.60	+ \$50.00	\$354.60	\$437	\$437
	Single under 18 away from home	\$462.50	+ \$50.00	\$512.50	\$437	\$437
	Single 18 - 24 away from home	\$462.50	+ \$50.00	\$512.50	\$437	\$437
	Partnered, no child	\$462.50	+ \$50.00	\$512.50	\$437	\$437
	Partnered with child	\$507.90	+ \$50.00	\$557.90	\$437	\$437
	Single at home, long-term	\$373.70	+ \$50.00	\$423.70	\$437	\$437
	Single, living away from home, long-term	\$561.90	+ \$50.00	\$611.90	\$437	\$437
	Partnered, no child, long-term	\$507.90	+ \$50.00	\$557.90	\$437	\$437

Current Payment	Cohort	Current Rate (pf)	Increase (pf)	1 April 2021 rate* (pf)	Current Income Free Area (pf) (pre-COVID-19 settings)	1 April 2021 Income Free Area (pf)
ABSTUDY Living Allowance	Under 16, State and Foster Care	\$253.20	+ \$50.00	\$303.20	\$437	\$437
	16 to 17 years, State and Foster Care	\$253.20	+ \$50.00	\$303.20	\$437	\$437
	18 to 21 years, State and Foster Care	\$304.60	+ \$50.00	\$354.60	\$437	\$437
	Under 16, State Care only (no Foster Care)	\$462.50	+ \$50.00	\$512.50	\$437	\$437
	16 to 21 years, State Care only (no Foster Care)	\$462.50	+ \$50.00	\$512.50	\$437	\$437
	16 to 17 years, at home	\$253.20	+ \$50.00	\$303.20	\$437	\$437
	18 to 21 years, at home	\$304.60	+ \$50.00	\$354.60	\$437	\$437
	22 years or over, at home	\$565.70	+ \$50.00	\$620.80*	\$437	\$437
	Away from Home, Under 16 years	\$462.50	+ \$50.00	\$512.50	\$437	\$437
	Away from Home, 16 to 21 years	\$462.50	+ \$50.00	\$512.50	\$437	\$437
	Away from Home, 22 years or over	\$565.70	+ \$50.00	\$620.80*	\$437	\$437
	Independent single, no children, Under 16 years	\$462.50	+ \$50.00	\$512.50	\$437	\$437
	Independent single, no children, 16 to 21 years	\$462.50	+ \$50.00	\$512.50	\$437	\$437
	Independent single, no children, 22 years or over	\$565.70	+ \$50.00	\$620.80*	\$437	\$437
	Independent single, no children, 60 years or over	\$612.00	+ \$50.00	\$667.50*	\$437	\$437
	Independent single, no children, Under 16, at home	\$253.20	+ \$50.00	\$303.20	\$437	\$437
	Independent single, no children, 16 to 17 years, at home	\$253.20	+ \$50.00	\$303.20	\$437	\$437
	Independent single, no children, 18 to 21 years, at home	\$304.60	+ \$50.00	\$354.60	\$437	\$437
	Independent partnered, no children, Under 16 years	\$462.50	+ \$50.00	\$512.50	\$437	\$437
	Independent partnered, no children, 16 to 21 years	\$462.50	+ \$50.00	\$512.50	\$437	\$437
	Independent partnered, no children, 22 years or over	\$510.80	+ \$50.00	\$565.40*	\$437	\$437
	Independent, single with dependent child, Under 16 years	\$606.00	+ \$50.00	\$656.00	\$437	\$437
	Independent, single with dependent child, 16 to 21 years	\$606.00	+ \$50.00	\$656.00	\$437	\$437
	Independent, single with dependent child, 22 years or over	\$612.00	+ \$50.00	\$667.50*	\$437	\$437
	Independent, partnered with dependent child, Under 16 years	\$507.90	+ \$50.00	\$557.90	\$437	\$437
	Independent, partnered with dependent child, 16 to 21 years	\$507.90	+ \$50.00	\$557.90	\$437	\$437
Independent, partnered with dependent child, 22 years or over	\$510.80	+ \$50.00	\$565.40*	\$437	\$437	
Youth DSP	Single, not independent, living at home, aged under 18	\$385.10^	+ \$50.00	\$435.10^	\$178	\$178
	Single, not independent, living at home, aged 18 - 20	\$436.50^	+ \$50.00	\$486.50^	\$178	\$178
	Single, independent	\$594.40^	+ \$50.00	\$644.40^	\$178	\$178
	Member of a couple	\$594.40^	+ \$50.00	\$644.40^	\$316	\$316

Rates do not include supplementary payments (e.g. Energy Supplement, Pharmaceutical Allowance, Rent Assistance, etc.).

Special Benefit rates will continue to align to relevant Youth Allowance (Other) and JobSeeker Payment rates.

* These rates account for 20 March 2021 indexation.

~ Parenting Payment Single rates include pension supplement. These rates and their equivalents may increase once MTAW for the reference period is available.

^ Disability Support Pension (under 21) rates include Youth Disability Supplement.

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