



Encouraging self-sufficiency for newly arrived migrants extension

2018 Budget

From 1 July 2018, the Newly Arrived Resident's Waiting Period will be increased to four years.

What was announced in the 2018 Budget?

From 1 July 2018, for certain welfare payments the Newly Arrived Resident's Waiting Period will be increased to four years and be applied consistently across income support and family payments.

For people who are granted permanent residency, and some temporary visas, on or after 1 July 2018, the Newly Arrived Resident's Waiting Period will increase from the current proposed 156 weeks to 208 weeks (three to four years). The Assurance of Support period will also be increased from three to four years.

This measure will encourage new migrants to support themselves and their families for longer when they first settle in Australia.

Existing exemptions will be maintained, including for humanitarian entrants and their families and

for people who are in financial hardship as a result of a substantial change in circumstances. These exemptions ensure a balance between encouraging migrants to support themselves and providing safeguards for people in vulnerable circumstances.

This measure builds on the changes announced in the 2017-18 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) to extend the existing waiting period from two years to three years and apply it consistently across income support and family payments.

Key facts

- The following payments and concession cards will be affected by this measure:
 - Newstart Allowance;
 - Youth Allowance;
 - Austudy;
 - Parenting Payment;
 - Family Tax Benefit;
 - Parental Leave Pay;
 - Dad and Partner Pay;
 - Carer Payment;
 - Carer Allowance;
 - Mobility Allowance;
 - Widow Allowance;
 - Sickness Allowance;

- Bereavement Allowance;
 - Special Benefit;
 - Pensioner Education Supplement;
 - Farm Household Allowance;
 - Commonwealth Seniors Health Care Card; and
 - Low Income Health Care Card.
- It is estimated that when the measure is fully implemented from 2022-23 onwards, the waiting period will apply to around 66,000 families for Family Tax Benefit, and around 47,000 individuals for other payments. This estimate takes into account the changes announced in the 2017-18 MYEFO.
 - This measure will save \$202.5 million to 2021-22. This is in addition to the estimated savings of \$1.3 billion over four years to 2020-21 for the 2017-18 MYEFO measure. There will continue to be savings each year beyond this period.

More information

For more information about this measure and other Department of Social Services' Budget measures, visit the [Department of Social Services website \(dss.gov.au\)](http://dss.gov.au).

For information about the 2018 Budget, visit the [Australian Government Budget website \(budget.gov.au\)](http://budget.gov.au).