

APPENDIX A: SOCIAL SECURITY RATES

This Appendix shows the current rates of payment and conditions of entitlement for:

- pensions;
- allowances;
- family assistance;
- supplementary payments;
- other payments; and
- the New Tax System changes.

Pensions

The payments referred to in this section comprise Age Pension, Wife Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment, Widow B Pension, Bereavement Allowance, Mature Age Allowance and Mature Age Partner Allowance.

Pension Rates

Pension rates are generally indexed to movements in the Consumer Price Index every March and September. Further the single rate of pension is also benchmarked to 25 percent of male Total Average Weekly Earnings. The following table shows the current maximum pension rates. These rates are current from 20 March 2000 to 30 June 2000, at which time rates will be adjusted for the tax reform package.

	Per week	per fortnight	per annum
Single	\$186.00	\$372.00	\$9,672
Couple (each person)	\$155.25	\$310.50	\$8,073
Couple (combined)	\$310.50	\$621.00	\$16,146

* These rates do not include supplementary payments, such as Pharmaceutical Allowance and Rent Assistance. Disability Support Pension recipients aged under 21 years are paid at the Youth rate as set out under Youth Allowance, which is discussed under the 'Allowances' section of this appendix.

Pension Income Test

The following table shows the income limits up to which full pension is payable. Income earned over these limits reduces the rate of pension payable by 50 cents in the dollar. The income limits at which no pension is payable are also shown. Current limits are from 20 March 2000 to 30 June 2000.

	Maximum pension if income below the following per fortnight	No pension if income is equal or above the following per fortnight
Single (no children)	\$102.00	\$856.80
Single (one child) <i>for each subsequent child add</i>	\$126.00 \$24.00	\$880.80 \$24.00
Couple (no children) combined	\$180.00	\$1,432.80
Couple (no children) one partner eligible – combined	\$180.00	\$1,432.80
Couple (one child) – combined <i>for each subsequent child add</i>	\$204.00 \$24.00	\$1,456.80 \$24.00

- DSP recipients under 21 years are subject to other income test arrangements.

The limits above which no pension is payable assume the pension includes Pharmaceutical Allowance. These limits will be higher if the pension recipient is eligible for Rent Assistance or other supplementary payments. Blind pensioners are exempt from the income test.

Compensation income, such as weekly worker's compensation payments, is assessed under a separate income test. Under this test, for each dollar of compensation income, the pension or allowance payment is reduced by one dollar. Lump sum compensation payments also reduce pension and allowance entitlements, under special rules.

Pension Assets Test

The following table shows the assets limits below which full pension is payable. For each \$1,000 of assets above the limit, the pension is reduced by \$3 per fortnight. The limits beyond which no pension is payable are also shown. These limits are current from 20 March 2000 to 30 June 2000.

	Maximum pension if assets below the following	No pension if assets are equal or above the following
Single homeowner	\$127,750	\$253,750
Single non-homeowner	\$219,250	\$345,250
Couple homeowners (combined)	\$181,500	\$390,500
Couple non-homeowners (combined)	\$273,000	\$482,000

The limits above which no pension is payable assume the pension includes Pharmaceutical Allowance. These limits will be higher if the pension recipient is eligible for Rent Assistance or other supplementary payments.

Allowances

The allowances and benefits referred to in this section comprise Newstart Allowance, Widow Allowance, Partner Allowance, Mature Age Allowance, Parenting Payment, Sickness Allowance and Special Benefit.

Allowance Rates

Allowance rates are generally indexed to movements in the Consumer Price Index every March and September. These amounts are current rates from 20 March 2000 to 30 June 2000, at which time rates will be adjusted for the tax reform package.

Family Situation	per fortnight	per annum
Single, no children		
21 years or over	\$331.60	\$8,621.60
60 years or over, after 9 months on benefit	\$358.70	\$9,326.20
Single, with children		
21 years or over	\$358.70	\$9,326.20
Member of a couple		
With children	\$299.10	\$7,776.60
Without children	\$299.10	\$7,776.60

Special Benefit is a discretionary payment for people in financial hardship. Maximum rates cannot exceed the relevant rate of Newstart Allowance.

Youth Rates

These amounts are current from 1 January 2000 to 30 June 2000 for Youth Allowance and other payments.

Family Situation			Maximum rate per fortnight	Maximum rate per annum
Single,	Under 18	At home	\$148.00	\$3,848.00

no children	18 + years	Away from home	\$270.30	\$7,027.80
		At home	\$177.90	\$4,625.40
		Away from home	\$270.30	\$7,027.80
Single, with children	Under 21		\$354.10	\$9,206.60
Partnered, no children	Under 21		\$270.30	\$7,027.80
Partnered, with children	Under 21		\$296.80	\$7,716.80
Special rates for long-term unemployed aged 21 + years entering full-time study				
Single	21+ years	At home	\$218.50	\$5,681.00
Single		Away from home	\$328.30	\$8,535.80
Partnered, no children	21+ years		\$296.80	\$7,716.80
Disability Support Pension				
Single	Under 18	At home	\$148.00	\$3,848.00
Single	Under 18	Away from home	\$244.40	\$6,354.40
Single	18 to 20 years	At home	\$177.90	\$4,625.40
Single		Away from home	\$270.30	\$7,027.80
Single, with children	Under 21		\$372.00	\$9,672.00
Partnered, no children	18 to 20 years		\$310.50	\$8,073.00
Partnered, with children	Under 21		\$310.50	\$8,073.00
Youth Disability Supplement			\$76.40	\$1,986.40

These income limits are current from 1 January 2000 to 30 June 2000 for Youth Allowance. Youth Allowance is payable below these limits.

CHILDREN			YOUTH ALLOWANCE		
Number	Ages	Circumstances	No Rent Assistance	Full Rent Assistance (single, no children \$77.20 pf) *	Sharer's Rate Rent Assistance (\$51.50 pf)*
One	16	At home	\$39,192	N/a	N/a
One	16	Away from home	\$51,912	\$59,940	\$57,268

One	18	At home	\$42,304	N/a	N/a
One	18	Away from home	\$51,912	\$59,940	\$57,268
Two	1x16	Both at home	\$42,892	N/a	N/a
	1x18		\$46,004	N/a	N/a
Two	1x16	Both away from home	\$55,612	\$63,640	\$60,968
	1x18		\$55,612	\$63,640	\$60,968
Two	1x18	Tertiary Students Both away from home	\$59,312	\$67,340	\$64,668
	1x19		\$59,312	\$67,340	\$64,668
Three	1 x 16	At home	\$46,592	N/a	N/a
	1x16	Both away from home	\$59,312	\$67,340	\$64,668
	1x18		\$59,312	\$67,340	\$64,668
Three	1 x 16	At home	\$53,992	N/a	N/a
	1x18	Both tertiary students, away from home	\$63,012	\$71,040	\$68,368
	1x19		\$63,012	\$71,040	\$68,368

Income limits will increase from 1 July 2000 when GST is introduced.

Income limits can be higher if there are other dependent siblings in the family.

- March 2000 Rent Assistance rates used.

Rent Assistance is indexed in March and September each year.

Pharmaceutical Allowance and Remote Area Allowance are also available to Youth Allowees.

Austudy Rates

These amounts are current from 1 January 2000 to 30 June 2000 for Austudy Payment.

	Per fortnight
Single, no children	\$270.30
Single, with children	\$354.10
Partnered, no children	\$270.30
Partnered, with children	\$296.80
Special rate for long-term unemployed commencing full-time study	
Single	\$328.30
Partnered, no children	\$296.80

Allowance Income Limits

The following table shows the income limits below which full allowances and part allowances are payable. For each dollar of income between \$60 and \$140 per fortnight, allowance is reduced by 50 cents. For each dollar above \$140 per fortnight, allowance is reduced by 70 cents. Partner income which exceeds the cut-out point reduces allowance by 70 cents in the dollar. The income limits beyond which an allowance is payable will be higher if the allowance recipient is eligible for Pharmaceutical Allowance or Rent Assistance. These limits are current to 30 June 2000.

Family Situation	Maximum allowance if income below the following per fortnight	No allowance if income is equal or above the following per fortnight
Single, no children		
21 years or over	\$60.00	\$556.57
60 years or over, after 9 months, or on MAA	\$60.00	\$595.29
Single, with children		
21 years and over	\$60.00	\$595.29
Member of a couple, no children		
21 years or over	\$60.00	\$510.14
Member of a couple, with children		
21 years or over	\$60.00	\$510.14

The above table does not apply to Special Benefit, Austudy and Youth Allowance recipients. For Special Benefit there is no income test free area and payment is reduced dollar for dollar.

Austudy recipients have an income-free area of \$230 per fortnight and an income bank in which they can accumulate up to \$6000 of unused fortnightly income-free area, which can be used to offset income earned that exceeds the income-free area of any other fortnight.

If not independent, Youth Allowance recipients are subject to a parental income test. If independent, recipients are subject to a personal income test only for which a \$60 per fortnight income-free area applies if unemployed, and a \$230 per fortnight income-free area if a student. Student YA recipients can accumulate credits in an income bank same as Austudy recipients.

Youth Allowance Family Income Cut-out Points

For Youth Allowance, a Parental Means Test (consisting of a Parental Income Test, Family Assets Test and Family Actual Means Test) will apply to full-time students up to their 25th birthday and to other young people up to their 21st birthday, unless the person has supported themselves for at least 18 months through paid employment since leaving secondary school or satisfy certain safety net criteria, or has a dependent child, is homeless, or has been married or in a defacto relationship for at least 12 months.

Youth Allowance family income cut-out points are increased by amounts ranging between \$1,200 and \$7,400 in respect of other dependent children in the family, depending on their age and circumstances.

Allowance Assets Limits

The following table shows the assets limits above which allowance is not payable to all allowees including Austudy and independent YA recipients. These limits are current to 30 June 2000.

	No allowance if assets are the following per annum
Single homeowner	\$127,750
Single non-homeowner	\$219,250
Partnered homeowners (combined)	\$181,500
Partnered non-homeowners (combined)	\$273,000

Non-independent YA recipients are also subject to a Parental Assets Test .

Family Assistance

Family Allowance

Family Allowance is a non-taxable means tested payment to families with children under 16 years of age and certain dependent young people between 16 and 24 years of age who do not receive Youth Allowance. It is indexed annually in January, but will be replaced by Family Tax Benefit on 1 July 2000.

Family Allowance Rates

The following maximum rates of Family Allowance are current from 1 January 2000 to 30 June 2000.

	Maximum per fortnight	Maximum per annum
Each child aged 0 – 12	\$101.60	\$2,641.60
Each child 13 – 15	\$132.20	\$3,437.20
Each Child 16 – 17	\$24.00	\$624.00
Each Child 18 – 20	\$50.00	\$1,300.00
Each Student 21 – 24	\$50.00	\$1,300.00

A Large Family Supplement of \$7.90 per fortnight is also paid for the fourth and each subsequent child and a Multiple Birth Allowance is paid at a rate of \$95.70 per fortnight for triplets and \$127.70 for quadruplets or more.

No Family Allowance is payable in respect of students receiving Youth Allowance.

On request families are able to get a lump sum advance of up to half the first child rate of minimum Family Allowance for up to six months (current limit is \$156.00).

Family Allowance Income Limits

Entitlement to Family Allowance is tested against the family's taxable income, plus any foreign income, certain employer provided fringe benefits and any net losses from rental property. Any income over the limit for maximum Family Allowance reduces payment by 50 cents in the dollar until the minimum rate is reached. The minimum rate of Family Allowance is \$24.00 per child per fortnight (\$50.00 per child per fortnight if the child is aged 18-20 or a student aged 21-24). No Family Allowance is payable if income is over the "nil" limits below.

These limits are current from 1 January 2000 to 30 June 2000. Figures do not include Rent Assistance, Multiple Birth Allowance or Large Family Supplement.

Number of Children	Maximum Family Allowance if income below following per annum	Nil Family Allowance if income is at or above the following per annum
1 child	\$23,800	\$67,134
2 children	\$24,424	\$70,493
3 children	\$25,048	\$73,852
4 children	\$25,672	\$77,211
add for each subsequent child	\$624	\$3,359

Age of Children	Minimum Family Allowance if income is above the following per annum
Under 13 years	27,835 plus \$4,659 per extra child
13-15 years	29,426 plus \$6,250 per extra child
16-24 years	Only paid at minimum rate

Family Allowance Assets Limits

These limits are current from 1 January 2000 to 30 June 2000. A 50% discount applies to business assets, including farm assets.

	Per annum
Full payment if family assets are less than	\$414,500
No payment if family assets are more than	\$615,250

Figures shown exclude the family home. Hardship provisions may apply.

Guardian Allowance

Guardian Allowance is paid to sole parents who receive the more than minimum rate of Family Allowance as part of that payment.

	Per fortnight
Guardian Allowance	\$37.40

Guardian Allowance is subject to the same income and assets test as Family Allowance.

Maternity Allowance

Maternity Allowance is a one-off lump sum payment paid at around the time of the birth of a baby. It is payable for each baby, including each baby in a multiple birth, for adopted babies, and when a baby is stillborn or dies shortly after birth.

Maternity Immunisation Allowance

Maternity Immunisation Allowance is a one-off lump sum payment paid when a child reaches 18 months of age upon proof of age appropriate immunisation or a valid exemption.

	one-off payment
Maternity Allowance per child	\$750.00
Maternity Immunisation Allowance per child	\$200.00

The payments are made together at the time Maternity Allowance is claimed for stillborn babies and babies who die shortly after birth.

To receive Maternity Allowance and Maternity Immunisation Allowance claimants must qualify for Family Allowance.

Other Family Type Payments

Payment Type	Per fortnight
Multiple Birth Allowance:	
Triplets	\$95.70
Quads or more	\$127.70
Double Orphan Pension, per child*	\$38.30
Carer Allowance	\$76.40
Mobility Allowance	\$57.70

- Not subject to income or assets test.

Maintenance Income Test

Family Allowance is subject to a maintenance income test, in addition to the Family Allowance income test. Blind pensioners are exempt from the maintenance income test.

Maintenance income over a certain amount (the Maintenance Income Free Area) reduces Family Allowance by 50 cents in the dollar until the minimum rate of Family Allowance is reached. The following free areas are current to 30 June 2000.

	Maintenance Income Free Area per annum
Single parent or one of couple, receiving maintenance	\$967.20
Couple, both receiving maintenance	\$1,934.40
For each child after the first, add	\$322.40

Dependency Limits

To be considered dependent for Family Allowance purposes, a child's income must be below prescribed limits. These limits are current from 1 January 2000 to 30 June 2000.

Children under 16 years, not a full-time student	\$128.55 per week
Students 16-24 years, living at home or away from home	\$7,045 per annum

Family Tax Payment

Family Tax Payment commenced on 1 January 1997 and is part of the Family Tax Initiative, which provides extra assistance to families with dependent children whose income is below \$70,000 (for one child, plus \$3000 for each child after the first). The Family Tax Payment can be paid to eligible low-income families – generally, those whose taxable income entitles them to the more than minimum rate of Family Allowance. Families may choose to access assistance through the taxation system (Family Tax Assistance) rather than through the Family Tax Payment.

The rates of Family Tax Payment are not subject to indexation.

Family Tax Payment has two parts:	Per fortnight
Part A (paid for each child)	\$7.70
Part B (paid per family to couples and sole parents with at least one child under 5 and if a couple, where one partner has income less than \$178.86 per fortnight)	\$19.24

Parenting Payment Rates

Parenting Payment is made up of Basic Parenting Payment and Additional Parenting Payment. Basic Parenting Payment is not taxable, is not assets tested and is based on the claimant's personal income only (not the income of their partner). Additional Parenting Payment is taxable, assets tested and based on the income of each partner. The following rates and income limits are current from 20 March 2000 to 30 June 2000.

Parenting Payment	Per fortnight
Sole Parents	\$372.00
Partnered Parents	
Basic Rate	\$67.20
Additional Rate	\$231.90
Basic plus additional rate	\$299.10
Additional rate, illness separated	\$291.50

Additional Parenting Payment is subject to the Allowances assets test.

Supplementary Payments

Supplementary Education Payments

Pensioner Education Supplement is available to pensioners who qualify as either a full-time student with a minimum 75 per cent study load or as a concessional study load student with a minimum 25 per cent study load. It has a two tiered structure with a rate of \$30 per fortnight for recipients undertaking a study load between 25 and 50 per cent (unless they receive Disability Support Pension), and a rate of \$60 per fortnight for pensioners with a study load exceeding 50 per cent.

Student Financial Supplement Scheme

The Student Financial Supplement Scheme is an optional loan scheme which gives full-time tertiary students the option of borrowing money to help cover their expenses while studying. To take out a Financial Supplement a student trades in \$1 of Youth Allowance, Austudy or Pensioner Education Supplement for every \$2 that they wish to receive as a Supplement loan.

Fares Allowance

Fares Allowance reimburses the cost of fares incurred by full-time tertiary students receiving Youth Allowance, and full-time or concessional study load students receiving Austudy or Pensioner Education Supplement who need to live away from their permanent home for study reasons.

Rent Assistance

Rent Assistance (RA) is a supplementary payment payable to eligible FaCS and Department of Veterans' Affairs customers who rent accommodation in the private rental market and pay rent above minimum threshold levels.

RA is provided at the rate of 75 cents per dollar of rent paid above these thresholds up to specific maximum rates of assistance. Indexed twice every year in line with CPI movements, the maximum rates and rent thresholds vary according to household structure and size.

Rates are indexed every six months according to the CPI. The rates below are current from 20 March 2000 to 30 June 2000, when the tax changes come in.

Family Type	Maximum rate of RA payable per fortnight	Fortnightly rent threshold (at which payment of RA commences)	Fortnightly rent at which maximum rate of RA is payable
single, no children	\$77.20	\$73.80	\$176.73
single, no children, sharer	\$51.50	\$73.80	\$142.47
single, 1 or 2 children	\$90.20	\$97.00	\$217.27
single, 3 or more children	\$102.00	\$97.00	\$233.00
couple, no children	\$72.60	\$120.20	\$217.00
couple, 1 or 2 children	\$90.20	\$143.60	\$263.87
couple, 3 or more children	\$102.00	\$143.60	\$279.60
One of a couple who are separated due to illness, no children	\$77.20	\$73.80	\$176.73
One of a couple who are temporarily separated, no children	\$72.60	\$73.80	\$170.60

Singles under 25, who have no dependants and are living with their parents or guardians, are not eligible for RA. Special rules apply to people who pay board and lodging, reside in retirement villages, or are single and share accommodation.

From 1 July 1998 RA was available to YA customers who are married or have a dependent child, are independent and living away from their parental home, and dependent recipients who have an approved employment or study related reason to live away from home.

Pharmaceutical Allowance Rates

The following amounts are current from 1 January 2000 to 30 June 2000.

	per week	per fortnight	Per annum
Single/couple (combined)	\$2.70	\$5.40	\$140.40
Couple (each)	\$1.35	\$2.70	\$70.20

Pharmaceutical Allowance is paid to pensioners, recipients of Sickness Allowance and Mature Age Allowance, certain allowees during periods of temporary illness and, after 9 months, to certain allowees aged 60 years or over. It is paid as part of the total pension, benefit or allowance payment. When prescriptions reach 52 in a year, PBS prescriptions are free for the rest of the year.

Pharmaceutical Allowance is not payable for periods when a person is outside Australia or to people who are paid the allowance by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Telephone Allowance Rate

Rate current from 20 September 1999 to 30 June 2000.

	per quarter	per annum
Single/couple (combined)	\$16.00	\$64.00

Telephone Allowance is payable only to pensioners, people receiving Mature Age Allowance and Mature Age Partner Allowance and people aged 60 years and over who have been in receipt of Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance or Special Benefit for 9 months or more.

Recipients must hold a Pensioner Concession Card and have a telephone connected in their own or their partner's name.

Telephone Allowance is not payable for periods when a person is outside Australia.

Pensioner Concession Card

Pensioner Concession Cards are issued annually to pensioners, people receiving Mature Age and Mature Age Partner Allowance, Carer Payment, Parenting Payment (single) recipients and people aged over 60 who have been continuously in receipt of Widow Allowance, Parenting Payment (partnered), Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance or Special Benefit for more than 9 months.

Disability Support Pensioners whose payment is cancelled due to employment are entitled to a Pensioner Concession Card for 12 months after cancellation of payment.

Allowees and Special Benefit recipients in receipt of a Pensioner Concession Card are entitled to retain the card for 6 months after cancellation due to income from employment.

The card entitles its holder and dependants to Commonwealth health concessions and State-based health, household, educational, recreational and transport concessions.

Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

Commonwealth Seniors Health Cards are issued automatically to claimants for Age Pension whose claim is rejected due to assets in excess of the limit or insufficient residence but whose income is below the cut-off for the pension income test. The card may be applied for without the need to claim an Age

Pension. The card provides Commonwealth health concessions to the cardholder only. Income limits are current from 1 January 2000 to 30 June 2000.

	Income limit to qualify per annum
Single	\$40,000 pa
Couple, combined	\$67,000 pa
Couple, each, if illness separated	\$36,698 pa

Health Care Card

Health Care Cards are automatically issued to the following Social Security recipients:

- Recipients of Newstart Allowance, Special Benefit, Drought Relief Payment, Partner Allowance, Widow Allowance, Youth Allowance (not full-time students) and Parenting Payment (partnered) whose family income is below the cut-out point for Newstart Allowance (who are not eligible for a PCC) receive a Health Care Card every 12 weeks;
- Sickness Allowees receive a Health Care Card for the period of coverage of their medical certificate and a new card is issued when a subsequent medical certificate is processed;
- Maximum rate Family Allowance recipients, non-pensioner Mobility Allowees and low-income earners who claim, and meet, an income test receive a Health Care Card every 6 months;
- Recipients of Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance (not full time students), Widows Allowance, Special benefit, Drought relief payment, Parenting Payment Single, Partner Allowance who have been in receipt of allowance, benefit or pension continuously for 12 months and have their payment cancelled due to income from employment for themselves or their partner receive a Health Care Card for 6 months from cancellation; and
- Parents who receive Carer Allowance for a child receive a Health Care Card for 12 months. The card is for the exclusive use of the child.

The card entitles its holder and dependants to Commonwealth health concessions and a range of State-based concessions.

Health Care Card – Low Income Card (LIC)

Health Care Cards may also be claimed (for 6 months at a time) by people not receiving a pension, allowance or other benefit and who earn a low-income over the eight weeks prior to claim. These limits are current from 20 March 2000 to 30 June 2000.

	Income limit to qualify per week *
Single (no children)	\$294.00
Single (one child)	\$524.00
Couple (no children) combined	\$490.00
Couple (one child) combined	\$524.00
each extra child	\$34.00

- Income may be 25 per cent over the allowable limit for an 8-week period without loss of eligibility.

Other Payments

Payment Type	per fortnight
Remote Area Allowance (Tax Zone A and Special Zone B):	
Single	\$17.50
Couple (combined)	\$30.00
Each dependent child	\$7.00
Education Entry Payment	\$200.00
Employment Entry Payment *	
for certain other allowees (NSA, MAA, MAPA, PA, WA, CP, & PPS) and pensioners	\$100.00
For recipients of Disability Support Pension.	\$300

The New Tax System changes

Pensions and allowances

From 1 July 2000 a number of changes will occur to pensions and allowances to compensate people receiving income support payments for the introduction of the New Tax System:

- All payments will increase by 4 per cent. This will provide a 2 per cent real increase beyond any price impact of the tax reforms. A 2 per cent offset from the March 2001 CPI indexation will recover the portion of the four per cent increase that represents a 9 month advance;
- The maximum rate of rent assistance will be increased by 7 per cent. This represents a 5 per cent real increase in the long-term following a 2 per cent offset from the March 2001 indexation; and
- All income and assets test "free areas" will be increased by 2.5 per cent. This increase is in addition to any normal indexation that occurs in July each year.

Family Assistance

From 1 July 2000, the family assistance part of the tax reform package will provide extra assistance worth more than \$2.4 billion each year to over two million families. The changes include:

- an extra \$140 a year per child;
- additional assistance of \$350 a year per family for single income or sole parent families with a child aged under five years;
- extended assistance from 1 October 1999 to families with dependent children aged up to 24 years not receiving Youth Allowance;
- increases to the maximum assistance for child care for lower income families;
- increasing the level of income at which family assistance begins to be income-tested to \$28,200 – an increase of \$4,400 a year for a family with one child;
- abolition of the assets test for Family Allowance and Childcare Assistance;
- allowing families to keep 70 cents of every dollar of income they earn above the free area, instead of the current 50 cents of every dollar; and
- simplified administration, combining the current 12 forms of assistance into 3 new payments, paid through the Commonwealth Government's new Family Assistance Office.

Bonus payments for retired Australians

As part of *A New Tax System*, two savings bonuses will be paid to older Australians to help maintain the value of their retirement savings following the introduction of the taxation reforms in July 2000.

The Aged Persons Savings Bonus of up to \$1,000 will be paid to people who:

- are aged 60 or more on 1 July 2000;
- residents of Australia;
- have annual income from savings and investments; and
- have total annual income of less than \$30,000.

The Self Funded Retirees Supplementary Bonus of up to \$2,000 paid to people who:

- self funded retirees;
- are aged 55 or more on 1 July 2000;
- residents of Australia;
- have annual income from savings and investments; and
- have total annual income of less than \$30,000.

Both bonuses are paid on a dollar for dollar basis with the individual's annual income from savings and investments up to the stated limits. A means test applies if the

individual has total annual income over \$20,000 with the bonuses phasing out if total annual income exceeds \$30,000.

APPENDIX B: ABBREVIATIONS

AAT	Administrative Appeals Tribunal
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACM	Accelerated Claimant Matching
AE	Additional Estimate
A&E	Access and Equity
AFP	Australian Federal Police
AHRF	Australian Housing Research Fund
AHURI	Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute
AILO	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officer
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
ANTS	A New Tax System
APPN	Appropriation(s)
APS	Australian Public Service
ARO	Authorised Review Officer
ARHP	Aboriginal Rental Housing Programme
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia
ASL	Average Staffing Level
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
AWE	Average Weekly Earnings
AWOTE	Average Weekly Ordinary Times Earnings
BPA	Business Partnership Agreement
BRM	Business Relationship Model
CA	Childcare Assistance
CAF	Commercial Activities Fund
CAP	Crisis Accommodation Programme
CCB	Childcare Benefit
CDA	Child Disability Allowance
CDEP	Community Development Employment Projects scheme
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CPA	Commonwealth Public Account
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CRF	Consolidated Revenue Fund
CRS	CRS Australia (NB: formerly Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service)
CSA	Child Support Agency
CSDA	Commonwealth-State Disability Agreement
CSHA	Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement
CSHC	Commonwealth Seniors Health Card
DFaCS	The Department of Family and Community Services
DNCB	Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit
DoFA	Department of Finance and Administration
DPAQ	Disability Payments Access and Quality
DPP	Director of Public Prosecutions
DPS	Disadvantaged Person Scheme
DRP	Drought Relief Payment
DRP	Disability Reform Package
DSO	Disability Support Officer
DSP	Disability Support Pension
DTF	Disability Task Force
DPAQ	Disability Payments Access and Quality
DVA	Department of Veterans' Affairs
EDF	Employment Declaration Form
FA	Family Allowance
FaCS	Department of Family and Community Services
FAMT	Family Actual Means Test

FAO	Family Assistance Office
FDC	Family Day Care
FHS	Farm Household Support
FAMQIS	Family Quality Information Strategy
FIS	Financial Information Service
FMA	Financial Management and Accountability
FSC	Family Service Centre
FTA	Formal Training Allowance
FTB	Family Tax Benefit
FTI	Family Tax Initiative
FTP	Family Tax Payment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HAC	Department of Health and Aged Care
HBC	Health Benefits Card
HCC	Health Care Card
HIC	Health Insurance Commission
IHR	Independent Homeless Rate (of Youth Allowance)
JET	Jobs, Education and Training
JSA	Job Search Allowance
JSC	Joint Select Committee
LAWP	Liquid Assets Test Waiting Period
MAA	Mature Age Allowance
MAB	Management Advisory Board
MAT	Maternity Allowance
MIA	Maternity Immunisation Allowance
MIAC	Management Improvement Advisory Committee
MIFS	More Intensive and Flexible Services
MIT	Maintenance Income Test
MLO	Migrant Liaison Officer
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRAP	Mortgage and Rent Assistance Programme
MTAWE	Male Total Average Weekly Earnings
MTI	Multilingual Telephone Information
NIDS	National Illicit Drugs Strategy
NESB	Non English Speaking Background
NSA	Newstart Allowance
PA	Partner Allowance
PAT	Parental Assets Test
PBS	Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme
PBS	Portfolio Budget Statement
PCC	Pensioner Concession Card
PES	Pensioner Education Supplement
PgA	Parenting Allowance
PIT	Parental Income Test
PRHP	Pensioner Rental Housing Programme
PSP	Partner Service Pension
QRC	Quality and Review Checkpoint
RA	Rent Assistance
RAF	Retirement Assistance for Farmers scheme
RCA	Residential Care Allowance
RGO	Registrar General's Office
RMF	Reserved Money Fund
RPS	Reportable Payment System
SA	Sickness Allowance
SAA	Superannuation Administration Authority
SAAP	Supported Accommodation Assistance Programme
SAMS	Security Access Management System
SART	Student Assistance Review Tribunal
SES	Senior Executive Service
SFSS	Student Financial Supplement Scheme

SHA	State Housing Authority
SHSP	Social Housing Subsidy Programme
SPA	Strategic Partnership Agreement
SpB	Special Benefit
SPP	Specific Purpose Payments
SPP	Sole Parent Pension
SSAT	Social Security Appeals Tribunal
SWS	Supported Wage System
TPI	Totally and Permanently Incapacitated
WA	Widow Allowance
WBA	Workplace Bargaining Agreement
YA	Youth Allowance
YSU	Youth Service Unit
YTA	Youth Training Allowance

GLOSSARY

Additional Estimates	Changes in funding requirements for programmes subsequent to the presentation of the Budget may lead to the consideration of additional estimates. Additional funds for Government programmes are agreed to by the Government if the amounts provided in Appropriation Acts (No 1 or 2), or Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Act are not enough to meet approved expenditure in a financial year. This additional funding is normally incorporated in Appropriation Bills (3 and 4) and the Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No2) and does not become available until after the Bills have been passed by the Parliament and received royal assent.
Administered Items	Expenses, revenues, assets or liabilities that agencies administer on behalf of the Commonwealth. Administered expenses include grants, subsidies and benefits. In many cases, administered expenses fund the delivery of third party outputs.
Annual Appropriations	Annual appropriations are acts of Parliament which provide money for the Government's activities during a specific financial year. Such appropriations lapse on 30 June each year. (See Appropriation Bill (No. 1), Appropriation Bill (No. 2) and Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill.)
Appropriation	<p>An appropriation is an authorisation by Parliament to spend an amount from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for a particular purpose. Section 83 of the Constitution does not allow any expenditure unless there is an appropriation. An appropriation is always limited as to the purpose for which moneys may be applied and may be limited as to either amount and/or timing.</p> <p>For former components of the Reserved Money Fund (RMF) and the Commercial Activities Fund (CAF), which are now termed special accounts, there is no specific legislation appropriating their unspent balances. Rather the authority to make payments from individual special accounts is provided by the purpose of the trust account which is determined under the <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i>, or an Act establishing the trust account itself (see Annual Appropriations and Special Appropriations.)</p>
Appropriation Bill No.1	This Bill proposes spending from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the ordinary annual services of Government and for all Defence expenditure. Once the Bill is passed by Parliament and given royal assent, it becomes the <i>Appropriation Act (No 1)</i> .
Appropriation Bill No.2	This Bill proposes spending from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for other than ordinary annual services. Under existing arrangements between the two Houses of Parliament (the "Compact"), this Bill includes funding for major capital works and services, plant and equipment, payments to the States and the Territories, and new programmes. Funding for extensions to existing programmes can be included in Appropriation Bill (No 1). Once the Bill is passed by Parliament and given royal assent, it becomes the <i>Appropriation Act (No 2)</i> .
Appropriation Bills (Nos 3 and 4)	If an amount provided in Appropriation Acts 1 or 2 is not enough to meet approved expenditure to be paid in a financial year, supplementary appropriation may be sought in Appropriation Bills 3 or 4. Appropriations may also be sought in these Bills for new spending proposals. Once these Bills are passed by Parliament and given royal assent, they become the Appropriation Acts (Nos 3 and 4). However, they are also commonly referred to as the Additional Estimates Acts.
Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (and Bill No.2)	The Bills which propose spending from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the Parliamentary Departments. The Parliamentary Departments do not have separate Appropriations Bills for "ordinary services" and "capital works". Bill No. 2 covers additional appropriations. Once these Bills are passed by Parliament and given royal assent, they become the <i>Appropriation</i>

(Parliamentary Departments) Act (and Act No. 2).

Assets	Future economic benefits controlled by an entity as a result of past transactions or other past events.
Average Staffing Level(s) (ASL)	ASL is the average number of employees receiving salary/wages (or compensation in lieu of salary/wages) over a financial year, with adjustments for casual and part-time employees to show the full-time equivalent.
Budget Measure	Decision by the Cabinet or Ministers that has been finalised in the 2000-01 Budget and has resulted in a cost or saving to outlays in the years 2000-01 to 2003-04 (on occasion Budget Measures have no impact outlays). See also cross portfolio Budget Measure and non-Budget measure.
Budget Related Paper	Budget related papers provide more detailed explanations on specific aspects of the budget than the Budget Papers. Examples include the detailed Portfolio Budget Statements prepared by each portfolio.
Budget Statements	These are statements which accompany the Treasurer's budget speech and make up Budget Paper No.1. They contain detailed information on the budget figuring, as well as explanatory material on the broader economic context.
Consolidated Revenue Fund	All accounting transactions are recorded in the Official Commonwealth Public Account (CPA). The CPA is the Commonwealth's official bank account kept at the Reserve Bank. Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) – This is the principal working fund of the Commonwealth and is mainly financed by taxation, fees and other current receipts. The Constitution requires an appropriation of moneys by the Parliament before any expenditure can be made from the CRF (s83).
Carryovers	Carryovers are resources allocated in one year which can be appropriated and spent in some future year. These are now termed 'rephasings'.
Cash	Cash means cash on hand and cash equivalents
Cash accounting	Cash accounting is an accounting method which records cash receipts, payments and balances and provides reports which show the sources of cash and how cash was used
Competitive Tendering	The process by which agencies call for offers to perform a service from internal and external bodies, including the private sector and other departments and agencies, in an open and transparent competitive environment.
Cross portfolio Budget Measure	This is a Budget measure which affects programmes administered in a number of portfolios.
Departmental Items	Assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses directly controlled by agencies, including salaries and allowances. Such resources are used to produce outputs on behalf of Government, including outsourced activities funded and controlled by the agency.
Effectiveness	The extent to which actual outcomes are achieved, in terms of the planned outcomes, via relevant outputs or administered expenses. An intervention's effectiveness should be distinguished from its efficiency, which concerns the adequacy of its administration.
Efficiency dividend	An annual deduction of a percentage of running costs from an agency's budget which acts both as an incentive to efficiency and a quantification of some of the efficiency gains made by an agency in the previous year.
Equity	Equity is the residual interest in the assets of a reporting entity after deduction of its liabilities.
Estimates	Estimates are expected outlays and revenue of the Commonwealth Government. They are prepared for each programme and item in the Budget

	Government. They are prepared for each programme and item in the Budget, in consultations between the Department of Finance and Administration and the departments responsible for programme delivery. Tax revenue estimates are prepared by the Treasury. (See Forward Estimates and Additional Estimates.)
Expenditure Review Committee (ERC)	ERC is the major ministerial committee responsible for examining all outlay proposals in the light of the Government's overall fiscal strategy, advising Cabinet on Budget spending priorities and initiating reviews of outlays under individual ongoing programmes. It usually includes the Prime Minister, Treasurer and Minister for Finance and Administration as well as relevant portfolio Ministers.
Financial Management and Accountability (FMA) Act 1997	The principal legislation governing the proper use and management of public money and public property, and other Commonwealth resources. FMA Regulations and FMA Orders are made pursuant to the Act.
Financing transactions	The Government funds shortfalls in revenue over outlays by borrowing from financial markets or running down financial assets. Such activities are regarded as financing transactions. If a surplus of revenue over outlays is recorded then financing transactions will show how the surplus is used.
Forward Estimates	The estimated revenues, expenses and relevant financial statements for the three out years past the Budget year.
Groups	Refer to Output Groups.
Liabilities	Liabilities are future sacrifices of future economic benefits that the entity is presently obliged to make to other entities as a result of past transactions or other past events.
Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO)	The Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook provides an update of the Government's budget estimates by examining expenses and revenues year to date, as well as provisions for new decisions that have been arisen since the Budget. It occurs around the middle of the financial year. Major updates such as the Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook, coincide with the availability of revised economic parameters.
Non-Budget Measure	A decision by the Cabinet or Ministers taken since the 1999-00 Budget, not in the context of the 2000-01 Budget, which has resulted in a cost or saving to outlays in the years 2000-01 to 2003-04.
Operating Result	Operating result is the difference between revenues and expenses and is either a surplus or a deficit.
Outcomes	Results, impacts or consequences of actions by the Commonwealth on the Australian community. Outcomes are the results or impacts that the Government wishes to achieve. Actual outcomes are the results or impacts actually achieved.
Output Groups (and 'Groups')	The aggregation based on homogeneity, type of product or beneficiary target group, of outputs. Aggregation may also be needed for the provision of adequate information for performance monitoring; or based on a materiality test. For the general purposes of FaCS' Outcome / Output structure and reporting, this definition also includes some items that are not strictly defined as 'Outputs'. Sections of the 2000-01 PBS relating to DFACS' revised Reporting Framework recognise this distinction by excluding reference to 'Outputs', and instead simply refer to 'Groups' as a more strictly relevant term.
Outputs	The goods and services produced by agencies on behalf of Government for external organisations or individuals. Outputs include goods and services produced for other areas of Government external to the agency.

Performance	The proficiency of an agency or authority in acquiring resources economically and using those resources efficiently and effectively in achieving planned outcomes.
Performance Measures	A more precise measure than indicators. Performance measures relate to outcomes, outputs, third party outputs and administered items. They are used when there is a direct casual link between an intervention and a measurable change in performance.
Performance Information	Evidence about performance that is collected and used systematically. Evidence may relate to appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency. It may be about outcomes, factors that affect outcomes, and what can be done to improve them.
Price	The amount the Government or the community pays for the delivery of agreed outputs.
Process	Activities, strategies or operations used to produce the outputs designed to bring about outcomes.
Portfolio Budget Statements	Statements prepared by portfolios to explain the Budget appropriations in terms of planned Government outcomes.
Quality	Relates to the characteristics by which customers or stakeholders judge an organisation, product or service. Assessment of quality involves use of information gathered from interested parties to identify differences between user's expectations and experiences.
Quantity	Size of an output. Count or volume measures. How many or how much.
Receipts	The total or gross amount received by the Commonwealth. Each receipt item is either revenue, an offset within outlays, or financing transactions. Receipts include taxes, interest, charges for goods and services, borrowings and GBE dividends received.
Revenue	Revenues are inflows or other enhancements, or savings in outflows, of future economic benefits in the form of increases in assets or reductions in liabilities of the reporting entity.
Senate Legislation Committee	The Senate Legislation Committee is a body of senators that examines the use of Government funding. Its purpose is to question Government officials about the estimates and activities of their respective agencies.
Special (or Standing) Appropriation	A special or standing appropriation is money appropriated by specific Act of Parliament for a specific purpose (eg unemployment benefits, grants to the States for schools). They may be for a specific amount of money, level of benefit or period of time. Special Appropriations do not require annual spending authorization by the Parliament, as they do not lapse at the end of each financial year.
Specific Purpose Payments (SPPs)	Commonwealth payments to the States are divided into general purpose payments (GPPs) and Specific Purpose Payments (SPP). The term payments is used because the amounts referred to are gross transfers, not net, which would include repayments of advances to the States and Territories. Most SPPs are conditional on policy objectives set by the Commonwealth or the achievement of national policy objectives agreed between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories.
Strategies	Groupings of activities to produce outputs required to achieve planned outcomes. Strategies usually comprise several activities and outputs.
Targets	Quantifiable performance levels or changes in level to be attained by a specified date. By enabling a direct judgement of performance, targets can clarify and simplify the process of performance monitoring.
Third Party Outputs	Goods or services delivered to the community by entities outside the Commonwealth General Government Sector. They are outputs wholly or

partly funded by administered items and are directed to achieving outcomes.

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