



Australian Government

Department of Social Services

Carer Allowance

Carer Allowance is an income supplement for people who provide daily care and attention in a private home to a person with a disability or severe medical condition, or who is frail aged.

2016-17 Budget measure: NDIS Savings Fund – align the backdating provisions for new Carer Allowance claims with most other social security payments

The Budget initiative is to remove the pre-claim backdating provisions that apply to Carer Allowance. This change will bring Carer Allowance into line with most other social security payments.

What was announced in the 2016-17 Budget?

From 1 January 2017, Carer Allowance recipients will no longer be able to have their payment backdated up to 12 weeks prior to contacting Centrelink about the payment.

Consistent with most other payments, Carer Allowance will be payable to applicants from the date of claim, or the date they first contact Centrelink indicating their intent to claim.

There will be no other changes to Carer Allowance arising from this measure, including to eligibility criteria or the payment rate. All current recipients will remain eligible unless their circumstances change.

How can I get more information?

Carer Allowance claimants can call the Department of Human Services on 132 717 for more information. Calls can be made from 8.00am-5.00pm Monday to Friday, for the cost of a local call. Calls made from mobile phones may incur additional costs.

There is information on the [Department of Human Services website](#)

Key facts

- From 1 January 2017 Carer Allowance backdating provisions will be aligned with those for most other social security payments.
- Carer Allowance claimants will no longer be able to have their payment backdated up to 12 weeks prior to contacting Centrelink about the payment.
- There will be no other changes to Carer Allowance arising from this measure, including to eligibility criteria or the payment rate.
- Savings from this measure will be directed to the [National Disability Insurance Scheme Fund](#).

More Budget information

- Visit the DSS website (dss.gov.au) for more information on Department of Social Services' Budget measures.
- Visit the 2016-17 Budget website (budget.gov.au) for information on other Budget measures.