

Carer Payment

Carer Payment provides income support to people who, because of the demands of their caring role, are unable to support themselves through substantial paid employment. Carer Payment is income and assets tested and paid at the same rate as other social security pensions.

Carer Payment (adult) Eligibility

Eligibility for Carer Payment (adult) requires an assessment of the care receiver using the Adult Disability Assessment Tool (ADAT). The ADAT measures the level of care needed by an adult because of his or her disability. The ADAT measures the amount of help required to undertake activities of daily living - such as mobility, communication, hygiene and eating - and a range of cognitive and behavioural activities.

The ADAT consists of two components, a questionnaire for the carer and a questionnaire for a treating health professional to complete, each resulting in a score. A minimum score is required on the health professional component as well as a minimum combined score.

Carer Payment (child)

Carer Payment is available to carers of children under 16 years of age who have a severe disability or severe medical condition. The assessment process takes into account both the level of care required by a child or children with disability or medical condition, and the level of care provided by their carer.

Eligibility for Carer Payment is determined from information provided by the child's treating health professional and the assessment of the customer against other eligibility requirements, for example income and assets limits

Carer Allowance

Carer Allowance is an income supplement which is not taxable or income and assets tested. It is available to people who provide daily care and attention in a private home to a person with disability or severe medical conditions. Carer Allowance can be paid in addition to a social security income support payment.

Carer Allowance (Adult) assessment

Eligibility for Carer Allowance includes an assessment of the care needs of the person requiring care using the Adult Disability Assessment Tool (ADAT).

Carer Allowance (child) assessment from 1 July 2010

From 1 July 2010, significant changes were implemented to the qualification and assessment process for Carer Allowance (child) - caring for a child under 16.

The List of Recognised Disabilities (the LoRD) is the first test for qualification for Carer Allowance (child). Where the child's condition is not on the LoRD, the Disability Care Load Assessment (DCLA) will be used to determine qualification for Carer Allowance (child). This considers the level of care required by the child or children with disability or medical condition, and the level of care provided by their

carer. This differs from the previous process which considered the functional ability of the child in comparison to a child of the same age who does not have a disability or medical condition.

Disability Support Pension

DSP is designed to give people an adequate means of support if they are unable to work for at least 15 hours per week at or above the relevant minimum wage, independent of a program of support, due to a permanent physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment.

To be eligible for DSP, a person must have a permanent physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment assessed at 20 points or more under the Impairment Tables. The person must also be unable to do any work of at least 15 hours a week at or above the relevant minimum wage, or be re-skilled for any work for at least the next two years, as assessed through a Job Capacity Assessment (JCA).

Manifest Claims

In certain circumstances a claim for DSP can be granted manifestly. This means that on the basis of medical evidence alone the person is considered eligible for DSP without the need for a Job Capacity Assessment. Manifest grants may only be made to a person with:

- a terminal illness with a life expectancy of less than two years,
- permanent blindness,
- an intellectual disability that attracts 20 points under the impairment tables,
- a condition requiring a nursing home level of care,
- Category IV HIV/AIDS, or
- a condition that attracts a Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Disability Pension at the special rate (Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI))