

WHAT IS

JobSeeker Payment?

JULY 2026

If you're looking for work, or if you are sick or injured and unable to do your usual work or study for a short time, you may qualify for the JobSeeker Payment.

JobSeeker Payment is paid by Centrelink and designed to provide financial help if you are looking for work. It can also provide support while you do activities that increase your chances of finding a job, such as studying or training.

Eligibility

To receive this payment, you must:

- Be aged between 22 and Age Pension age
- Meet the allowance income and assets tests
- Meet the residence rules

To receive this payment, you are also agreeing to complete a variety of tasks and activities.
These tasks and activities are known as mutual obligations. For more information on mutual obligations, refer to the '**What are mutual obligations?**' fact sheet.

You also need to be one of the following:

- Unemployed and looking for work, including if:
  - you're not in full time work, for example you're doing part time or casual work
  - you've been temporarily stood down
  - you've had your work hours reduced.
- Sick or injured and unable to do your usual work or study for a short time
  - You will need to meet certain rules and provide a medical certificate. Depending on your circumstances, you may get a temporary reduction or exemption from the mutual obligations

For more information on medical requirements, visit Services Australia at www.servicesaustralia.gov.au and search 'Jobseeker medical certificate'.

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Waiting periods

You may have to serve some waiting periods before JobSeeker Payment becomes payable, unless an exemption applies.

Normally, you will have to serve the Ordinary Waiting period of one week before you can start receiving JobSeeker Payment.

You may have to serve additional waiting periods if you have just finished a job, or if you have certain levels of liquid assets.

Other waiting periods may also apply if you don't meet work tests, or if you move to an area with lower job prospects.

Age Pension age

The Age Pension eligibility age increased progressively between 2017 and 2023, based on the applicant's date of birth. It is now set at age 67 for all applicants. Once you turn Age Pension age you will no longer be eligible to receive the JobSeeker Payment.

For more information, visit Services Australia at www.servicesaustralia.gov.au and search 'JobSeeker'.

To receive the JobSeeker Payment you'll be subject to the allowance asset and income tests.

Income and Assets test

When calculating your payment, Centrelink will apply an income and assets test. Whichever test generates the lower amount will determine your rate of payment. If your income or assets exceed the cut-off limit for either test, your payment ceases.

If you are a member of a couple, your income and assets plus those of your partner are assessed. This applies regardless of whether your partner is eligible for, or in receipt of, any Centrelink payment.

You are a member of a couple if you are:

- Legally married
- In a registered relationship (same sex or different sex)
- In a de facto relationship (same sex or different sex)[1]

Assessable income

Income counted for the income test generally includes:

- Salary or wages
- Deemed income
- Rent
- Distributions from trusts and companies
- Payments from pensions and annuities

Depending on the pension and annuity type, some or all of the payment may be counted.

Financial assets generate deemed income

Deeming rules are used to work out income from financial assets. It is a set of rules which assume certain assets earn a set rate of income, no matter what they really earn.

Financial assets which generate deemed income:

- Savings accounts and term deposits
- Managed investments, shares, loans you make and debentures
- Some account-based pensions (ABP) - If you commenced an ABP before 1 January 2015 and you did not continuously receive an age pension payment since that date, deeming applies. An ABP commenced on or after 1 January 2015 is also deemed
- Most term annuities payable for less than 5 years[2]
- Assets you have given away that over the allowable gifting threshold[3]
- Investment bonds

1. De facto spouse generally means someone who is living with you as your partner on a permanent or indefinite basis.
2. If the term of the annuity is greater than your life expectancy, it is not deemed for the income test.
3. $10,000 permissible gifting limit each year up to $30,000 over five financial years.

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Assessable assets

You will not be eligible for any JobSeeker Payment if your assets exceed the asset cut-off limit. If you are a member of a couple, your assets plus those of your partner are assessed.

This applies regardless of whether your partner is eligible for, or in receipt of the JobSeeker Payment or any other Centrelink payment.

An asset counted under the assets test generally includes:

- Business assets
- Caravans, cars, boats
- Home contents
- The current value of pensions and annuities
- Financial assets
- Property
- Your interest in a trust or company
- Some gifts you make

Assets or income you give away to friends or family can also be assessed. For more information, refer to the '**What are the social security gifting rules?**' fact sheet.

Exempt assets

There are some assets which are not assessed. They include:

- Your home and renovations you make to it.
- Amounts held in a super fund whilst under Age Pension age.
- A portion of some term allocated pensions (subject to additional criteria).
- The current value of a complying pension/ annuity which was purchased prior to 20 Sept 2004.
- A defined benefit pension that doesn't have an account balance.
- Lump sum paid to an aged care facility.
- A Funeral Bond up to the allowable limit.
- The difference between the insured value and the garage sale value of your home contents and motor vehicles.

For more information on the income and assets tests for JobSeeker Payments, visit Services Australia at www.servicesaustralia.gov.au and search 'JobSeeker income and assets test'

For specific payment rates and thresholds, refer to the **Social Security Quick Reference Guide**, published July 2026.

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