

Income Support

for people who have a disability and Carers

An important aspect of Australian Government's work is to develop and manage the delivery of income support payments to many Australians, including people with disabilities and their families and carers.

The [Disability Support Pension](#) provides income to people who are not able to work or re-skill for work for at least the next two years because of a disability.

Payments are also available to Australia's 2.3 million carers.

- [Carer Payment](#) provides income support to people who provide constant care to another person.
- [Carer Allowance](#) is a non means-tested payment that acknowledges the caring role experienced by carers of a person with a disability.

Income support and payments are provided through [Centrelink](#).

Other relevant payments include:

- [Mobility Allowance](#)
- [Wife Pension \(DSP\)](#)
- [Sickness Allowance](#).

Disability Support Pension

Disability Support Pension ensures that people with disabilities have adequate levels of income and maximum opportunities to participate in society. It is paid to people who are unable to work, or be re-skilled for work, for more than two years because of a disability.

To be eligible for Disability Support Pension, a person must be permanently blind or:

- have a permanent impairment of at least 20 points under the impairment tables; and
- be unable to work, or be re-skilled for work, for the next two years; or
- be participating in the Supported Wage Scheme.

To find out more about Disability Support Pension and your eligibility for this payment:

- visit your [local Centrelink office](#)
- telephone 13 27 17, or
- visit the [Centrelink website](#)

Carer Payment

Carer Payment is an income support payment for people who are unable to participate in the workforce full-time as a result of their caring responsibilities. Carer Payment is subject to income and assets tests and is paid at the same rate as other social security pensions.

The payment ensures carers have an adequate level of income and maximises the opportunities available to carers to participate in their community

To be eligible for Carer Payment a claimant must be providing care in the home of the person(s) being cared for and also provide one of the following levels of care:

- full-time care to an adult who has a disability or medical condition which is long term and severe and has a minimum level of care needs assessed by the Adult Disability Assessment Tool.
- care for a person whose care requirements are less severe but who has a dependent child that needs care, so their combined care needs are equivalent to the care needs of a person with a severe disability or medical condition.
- full-time care permanently or for at least six months to a child under 16 with a profound disability.
- full-time care permanently or for an extended period to two or more children under 16 with a disability who, together, need a level of care that is at least equivalent to the level of care needed by a child with a profound disability.

To find out more about Carer Payment and your eligibility for this payment:

- visit your nearest Centrelink Office
- telephone 13 27 17, or
- visit the [Centrelink website](#).

Carer Allowance

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

To be eligible for Carer Allowance, a person must be providing care and daily attention to a person with a disability or severe medical condition who is either:

- aged 16 years or over and whose disability or severe medical condition is permanent or for an extended period (as assessed under the Adult Disability Assessment Tool).
- a dependent child aged under 16 years whose disability appears on a list of disabilities or conditions which result in automatic qualification or who has a substantial functional impairment which has caused the child to function below the standard for his or her age level (as assessed under the Child Disability Assessment Tool).

The person(s) being cared for must be:

- likely to suffer from the disability permanently or for an extended period of at least 12 months (unless their condition is terminal) assessed by a medical practitioner or other approved person as meeting the medical eligibility criteria.

To find out more about Carer Allowance and your eligibility for this payment:

- visit your local Centrelink office
- telephone 13 27 17, or
- visit the Centrelink website:
 - [Carer Allowance for adults](#)
 - [Carer Allowance for children](#)

Source www.centrelink.org.au