

Centrelink Benefits for Disability

www.centrelink.gov.au 13 27 17

Benefits for the parent/carer of a child under 16

1. **Carer Allowance:** a payment that may be available if you are a parent or carer who provides additional care and attention on a daily basis for a child aged under 16 years with a disability or medical condition. Carer Allowance can be paid in addition to wages or other income support payments

Eligibility:

- You provide daily care and attention at home to a person under 16 with a disability or medical condition
- You provide daily care for 2 children with disabilities and the children do not individually qualify you for Carer Allowance (child) but together create a substantial caring responsibility

Rates:

- \$110.00 per fortnight and a **Health Care Card for the child**
- \$1,000 Child Disability Assistance (per year)
 - The Child Disability Assistance Payment will be paid to people who on 1 July each year receive Carer Allowance (child). This includes carers who are backdated to include 1 July
 - Centrelink will automatically make the payment into the bank account of eligible customers
- Carer Supplement of up to \$600 (per year) for each child in your care who qualifies you for Carer Allowance
 - Centrelink will automatically make the payment into the bank account of eligible customers

Income and Assets: You do not have to meet income or assets tests to receive this payment

Medical Review: The child you care for may be required to have a medical review on reaching some development milestones, **but if the child's disability or medical condition is on the list of recognised disabilities they will not generally have milestone reviews** except if required at a particular age, or after a specific period or treatment.

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24 Hour Autism Hotline 1300 222 777

2. Carer Payment: income support if you are unable to support yourself through substantial paid employment while you are providing care to a child aged under 16 years with a severe disability or severe medical condition.

Eligibility:

- a single child under 16 years of age with a severe disability or a severe medical condition
- 2–4 children under 16 years of age with a disability or medical condition whose combined care needs are equal to that of a single child aged under 16 with a severe disability or a severe medical condition
- 1–2 children and an adult who each have a disability or medical condition and their combined care needs are equal to that of a single child with a severe disability or severe medical condition

Rates

- A person who receives Carer Payment for a child may automatically be entitled to Carer Allowance
- Single: \$670.90 per fortnight
- Couple: \$505.70 (each) per fortnight
- Carer Supplement of up to \$600 (per year) for each child in your care who qualifies you for Carer Allowance
 - Centrelink will automatically make the payment into the bank account of eligible customers
- Also eligible for **Pension Supplement**
 - The Pension Supplement is included as part of your regular fortnightly income support payment. You do not have to apply for the Pension Supplement

Income and Assets: Carer Payment is subject to income and assets tests. Cannot receive Carer Payment as well as other income support payment, such as Age Pension, Newstart Allowance or Parenting Payment

Medical Review: If you receive Carer Payment because you are meeting children's combined needs, they are required to have medical reviews every 2 years.

Benefits for the parent/carer of a child 16 or over

3. Carer Allowance: a payment that may be available if you are a parent or carer who provides additional care and attention on a daily basis for someone aged 16 years or over who has a disability or medical condition. Carer Allowance can be paid in addition to wages or other income support payments

Eligibility:

- You provide daily care and attention at home to a person with a disability or medical condition
- You provide the care for that person in either your home or the home of that person.
- You may receive Carer Allowance for up to 2 adults in your care

Rates:

- \$110.00 per fortnight
- Carer Supplement of up to \$600 (per year)
 - Centrelink will automatically make the payment into the bank account of eligible customers

Income and Assets: You do not have to meet income or assets tests to receive this payment

Medical Review: If the person you are caring for has a severe disability or medical condition and requires high care, they are unlikely to have many medical reviews

Medical Report form: <http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/forms/sa332a.htm>

4. Carer Payment: income support if you are unable to support yourself through substantial paid employment while you are providing care on a daily basis for someone aged 16 years or over who has a severe disability or severe medical condition.

Eligibility:

- aged 16 years of age or over with a severe disability
- aged 16 years of age or over with moderate care needs and have a dependent child who is either under 6 years of age or 6–16 years of age and eligible for Carer Allowance (caring for a child under 16 years)
- The person you care for must also either receive an income support payment from Centrelink or meet the Special Care Receiver income and assets tests

Rates

- Single: \$670.90 per fortnight
- Couple: \$505.70 (each) per fortnight
- Carer Supplement of up to \$600 (per year)
 - Centrelink will automatically make the payment into the bank account of eligible customers
- Also eligible for **Pension Supplement**
 - The Pension Supplement is included as part of your regular fortnightly income support payment. You do not have to apply for the Pension Supplement

Income and Assets: The amount of Carer Payment you get depends on your income and assets, as well as the income and assets of the person you are caring for
Working, volunteering or studying/training: You can work, volunteer, or study/train for up to 25 hours a week (including time taken to travel) and still be eligible for Carer Payment. Any income you receive may affect your rate of payment.

Medical Report form: <http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/forms/sa332a.htm>

General benefits for the parent/carer

5. **Child Care Benefit:** helps you with the cost of child care for long day care, family day care, occasional care, outside school hours care, vacation care and registered care

Eligibility:

- you use approved or registered child care
- your child is immunised (or on an immunisation catch up schedule), or is exempt from the immunisation requirements
- you are responsible for paying the child care fees for your child
- **Approved Care:** Government-approved and subsidised child care services
 - Must meet an income test (not an assets test)
- **Registered Care:** child care provided by grandparents or other relatives, friends, or nannies registered as carers with the Australian Government's Family Assistance Office (familyassist.gov.au)
 - Must be working, studying, or training during the week when the care is provided
 - No income test

Rates

- **Approved Care:** up to \$184 per week for non school-age children.
 - To receive the full amount, you and/or your partner must meet the work, training, study test
- **Registered Care:** up to \$30.75 per week for non school-age children.
- Payment rates for school-age children is 85% of the non school-age rate

Documentation

- Income details
- Residence details:
 - passport number,
 - details of periods spent outside Australia
 - date first arrived in Australia if not born in Australia
 - details of periods your child has spent outside Australia
- Child details:
 - name

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- date of birth
- details of previous carer
- Tax file number
- Bank account details
- For Child Care Benefit
 - Child Care Services details
 - Work, Training, Study Test for full amount of Approved Care

6. Child Care Rebate: assists with your out-of-pocket expenses for Approved Care if you are working, training or studying

Eligibility

- You must first claim Child Care Benefit in order to receive this

Rates

- Up to \$7,500 per year
 - Your rebate amount is based on your individual circumstances

Contact

- Child Care Access Hotline on Freecall **1800 670 305**

Benefits for the cared for

7. Disability Support Pension: You may get Disability Support Pension if you are unable to work because of disability

Eligibility:

- Aged 16 or over and under Age Pension age
- Not able to work for 15 hours or more per week at or above the relevant minimum wage or be reskilled for such work for at least the next 2 years because of disability
- May require a Job Capacity Assessment to find out if you can work, how much you can work, and how much help you will need to find and keep a job

Rates:

In addition to a Pensioner Concession Card (PCC),

Over 21, or Under 21 with children

If you are	Maximum fortnightly payment
Single	\$670.90
Couple	\$505.70

Under 21 with no children

If you are	Maximum fortnightly payment
Single, under 18, at home	\$322.70
Single, under 18, independent	\$498.70
Single, 18–20 years, at home	\$365.80
Single, 18–20 years, independent	\$498.70
Member of a couple, under 18 years	\$498.70
Member of a couple, 18–20 years	\$498.70

Income and Assets:

- The amount of Disability Support Pension you get depends on both your income and your assets. Your parents' income and assets do not affect payment rates.

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8. Mobility Allowance: assists people with disabilities who are involved in qualifying activities (may include work, training, school) and cannot use public transport without substantial assistance

Eligibility:

- are aged 16 or over
- cannot use public transport without substantial assistance
- need to travel to and from your home when you are looking for work, doing work or training
- You can still qualify for Mobility Allowance if there is no public transport where you live

Rates:

- Standard rate: \$83 per fortnight
- Higher rate: \$116.20 per fortnight. Must be receiving Disability Support Pension and undertaking qualifying activities for at least 15 hours a week.

Income and Assets: You do not have to meet income or assets tests to receive this payment

9. Youth Disability Supplement: Youth Disability Supplement provides extra assistance to young people aged under 21 years of age with a disability.

Eligibility:

- Aged under 21 years
- Receiving Disability Support Pension

Rates:

- Maximum rate is \$110 per fortnight
- Until you turn 21, you keep getting Youth Disability Supplement for as long as you stay on Disability Support Pension

Income and Assets: You do not have to meet income or assets tests to receive this payment

10. Telephone Allowance: helps with the cost of a telephone and home internet service

Eligibility:

- under 21 years of age with no dependent children
- have a telephone connected in your or your partner's name
- receive Disability Support Pension

Rates:

- Standard rate: \$24.20 per quarter
- Higher rate: \$36.40 per quarter if you have a home internet service connected in your or your partner's name

Income and Assets: You do not have to meet income or assets tests to receive this payment

11. Utilities Allowance: helps meet the cost of regular bills such as gas, electricity, and water

Eligibility:

- under 21 years of age with no dependent children
- receive Disability Support Pension

Rates:

- Single: \$136.00 quarterly
- Couple: \$68.00 (each) quarterly

12. Rent Assistance: gives you extra help if you rent privately

Eligibility

- special rules apply if you are under 21 years and receive Disability Support Pension

Rates

- depends on whether you have children and how much the rent costs

Back Payment: In some circumstances, you may qualify for back payment of some benefits for up to 12 weeks before you lodge your claim

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Other Services

13. Continence Aids Payment Scheme: provides a payment to assist eligible people who have permanent and severe incontinence to meet some of the costs of their incontinence products. The payment is made by Medicare Australia directly into a client's nominated bank account.

Eligibility:

- Five years of age or older
- Permanent and severe loss of bladder and/or bowel function due to eligible neurological condition (autism spectrum disorders)

Rates:

- \$497.79 per year

Contact Medicare Australia **132 011**, select general enquiries

14. Program of Appliances for Disabled People: assists NSW residents who have a life-long or long-term disability by providing appropriate equipment (such as **continence pads**)

Contact 1800-ENABLE (**1800-362 253**) for further information.