

Social Security Act 1991 (قانون تأمين اجتماعي لعام 1991). يُسبغ جنسيتين على مواطني أستراليا من سن 18 عامًا أو أكثر، بما في ذلك أولئك الذين ولدوا في أستراليا، أو أولئك الذين ولدوا في الخارج ولكنهم أصبحوا مواطنين أستراليين.

مواطنون أستراليون (المواطنين)

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- Australian Capital Territory
- New South Wales
- Queensland
- Tasmania
- Victoria
- South Australia

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• ABSTUDY، Youth Allowance ثم Disability Support Pension

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- يحصلون على ABSTUDY Living Allowance أو Youth Allowance (باعتبارهم باحثين عن عمل) أو Disability Support Pension (DSP) لمدة 21 عامًا من تاريخ بدء تلقيهم الرعاية الصحية.
- يحصلون على Youth Allowance (باعتبارهم باحثين عن عمل) أو Disability Support Pension (DSP) لمدة 21 عامًا من تاريخ بدء تلقيهم الرعاية الصحية.
- يحصلون على Disability Support Pension (DSP) لمدة 21 عامًا من تاريخ بدء تلقيهم الرعاية الصحية.



Your relationship status

If you are a member of a couple, it can affect what payments you can get and your payment rate.

Getting payments

Your relationship status, if you are single or a member of a couple, can affect any of these:

- if you can get a payment
- the type of payment you get
- the amount you get.

Your income and assets will likely affect your payment. If you have a partner, their income and assets may also affect your payment.

Having a partner

If you have a partner, we generally consider you a member of a couple. We consider you a member of a couple if you are either:

- married
- in a registered relationship
- in a de facto relationship.

We may still consider you a member of a couple if you are not physically living with your partner. For example, your partner may live away for work, like military or oil-rig workers.

What we consider when assessing a member of a couple

To determine if you are a member of a couple, we may need to assess your relationship. We will consider all of the following:

- financial aspects of your relationship, which is the degree of financial interdependence
- nature of your household, the physical set-up of the household such as shared quarters, arrangements for domestic tasks and joint care of children
- social aspects of your relationship, such as how you present yourselves to society and how others in society view your relationship
- if you have a sexual relationship, and
- nature of your commitment to each other, which is the level of commitment you have to each other.

You can be a member of a couple even if all of these things are not part of your relationship.

If you tell us you are a member of a couple, we do not usually assess your relationship against these things. But we may look at them if your circumstances change.

What special provisions are

If you think being a member of a couple causes you unfair hardship, contact us on your regular payment line. We may consider you as single under special provisions in the *Social Security Act 1991*. We assess each request on a case by case basis. If you call us, let us know if you need an interpreter and we will arrange one for free.

Defining relationship types

We only assess relationship types as married, registered or de facto.

What marriage is

Marriage is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life. Read the *Marriage Act 1961* on the Federal Register of Legislation website.

What a registered relationship is

A registered relationship is one registered under Australian state or territory law. This includes civil unions and is recognised in:

- the Australian Capital Territory
- New South Wales
- Queensland
- Tasmania
- Victoria
- South Australia.

Australian state or territory law does not recognise relationships registered in other countries. You can still use this evidence to show that you and your partner are in a de facto relationship.

What a de facto relationship is

A de facto relationship is where you and your partner meet all of these conditions:

- you are in a relationship similar to a married couple
- you are not married or in a registered relationship
- you are over the age of consent in the state or territory you live in
- you are not in a prohibited relationship, for example with a brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, adopted child.

There is no minimum time period for a relationship to be de facto.

Relationship status for ABSTUDY, Youth Allowance and Disability Support Pension

Different rules apply if you are any of these:

- 21 or younger and getting ABSTUDY Living Allowance or Youth Allowance as a student or Australian Apprentice
- 21 or younger and getting Youth Allowance as a job seeker
- under 21 and getting Disability Support Pension (DSP).

We work out your ABSTUDY Living Allowance or Youth Allowance payment based on your parents' income. If you get DSP and live with your parents, we will usually pay you the dependent rate of DSP.

If you get one of these payments and you are dependent, we do not consider you as a member of a couple.

Boyfriends, girlfriends and non-binary relationships

If you have a boyfriend, girlfriend or are in a non-binary relationship, we may consider you as being in a de facto relationship. This depends on the circumstances of your relationship.

If we assess your relationship type as de facto, it means you are a member of a couple.

You need to tell us about your boyfriend, girlfriend or non-binary relationship. We may need to assess your relationship to decide if you are a member of a couple so we pay you the right amount.

Living separately and apart

We understand living arrangements are not the same for all couples. We may decide you are separated if you are living separately and apart on a permanent or indefinite basis.

For us to assess you as living separately and apart we need to confirm some things including:

- you and your partner are living apart permanently or indefinitely, and
- there has been an estrangement or breakdown in your relationship.

Generally, there must be a physical and emotional separation.

If we decide you are living separately and apart, your payment will be at the single payment rate. Only your income and assets will affect your payment eligibility and rate.

Updating relationship changes

You need to tell us when your circumstances change. This includes changes to your relationships. If you do not, we may pay you the wrong amount and you will have to repay the money. There may be other penalties.

To tell us about a change in your relationship, you may need to complete a form. The way you tell us will depend on which payment or benefit you get.

When you start a relationship

If you start a relationship and get any Centrelink payments or concession cards, complete and return the *Partner details* form in English.

When you separate

You need to tell us if you separate from your partner. You can tell us using your Centrelink online account through myGov. You can do it this way if you get one of the following payments:

- Age Pension
- Austudy
- Carer Payment
- Disability Support Payment
- JobSeeker Payment
- Youth Allowance.

You can use the *Separation details* form in English if you cannot tell us online.

If you told us you are separated as part of a new claim for a payment, you do not need to use this form.

If you only get a families payment and will not be claiming another payment, when you separate call the families line on **136 150** and let us know if you need an interpreter, and we will arrange one for free. Or call **131 202** to speak to us in your language. Families payments include:

- Family Tax Benefit
- Child Care Subsidy.

If you are separated and live in the same house as your ex-partner, you need to tell us. You will each need to complete and return a *Relationship details – Separated under one roof* form in English.

If it will put your safety at risk, your ex-partner does not need to complete this form. If you have any safety concerns with asking your ex-partner to complete it, please tell us on your form.

If you are separated under one roof, we will need to regularly review your living arrangements. This is so we pay you the right amount.

When you are single and share accommodation

If you are single and share housing, you may need to complete and return the *Relationship details* form in English. This includes sharing with anyone other than an immediate family member aged 16 years or older.

The person you share with will also need to complete and return the *Relationship details* form in English. They do not need to do this if it puts your safety at risk. If you have safety concerns, please tell us on the form.

To download forms in English, go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/forms

Using a referee to verify your relationship status

We may need to ask a third party, a person we call a referee, to verify your relationship status. We will tell you when we need referee details.

Who can act as a referee to verify your relationship status

Your referee must be someone over 18 who can confirm your relationship status. They cannot be any of the following:

- your parent or step parent
- a sibling or child
- your correspondence nominee
- your most recent ex-partner.

Your referee should be a person who is familiar with your circumstances. It is preferable that a referee be a person of some standing in the community. For example, a minister of religion, doctor, police officer, counsellor, social or welfare worker, solicitor, or community leader.

If they provide a false declaration, they may face penalties.

Getting support for relationship safety concerns

If you are concerned about your safety, we can help. We can support you if there is a family and domestic violence situation. If you are in, have left, or are preparing to leave this relationship, please talk with us.

For more information in English, go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/domesticviolence

For more information

- Go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/moc for more information in English.
- Call your regular payment line and let us know if you need an interpreter. We will arrange one for free. For a list of our phone numbers, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/phoneus
- Call **131 202** to speak with us in your language about Centrelink payments and services.
- Call **132 011** for Medicare and **131 272** for Child Support. Let us know if you need an interpreter, and we will arrange one for free.
- Go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/yourlanguage where you can read, listen to or watch information in your language
- Visit a service centre.

Note: calls from your home phone to '13' numbers from anywhere in Australia are charged at a fixed rate. That rate may vary from the price of a local call and may also vary between telephone service providers. Calls to '1800' numbers from your home phone are free. Calls from public and mobile phones may be timed and charged at a higher rate.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is intended only as a guide to payments and services. It is your responsibility to decide if you wish to apply for a payment and to make an application with regard to your particular circumstances.