



# Budget 2024-25

This information is accurate as of 14 May 2024.

## Impact of the Douglas decision on social security means testing

This measure will ensure the Federal Court of Australia's decision in *Commissioner of Taxation v Douglas* (2020) (the Douglas decision) doesn't change income support entitlements for veterans who get a military invalidity payment and are affected by the decision.

Services Australia will get \$11.9 million from 2024–25 through to 2027–28 to implement a:

- new income stream category called a 'military invalidity pension income stream'
- new means test.

The new income stream category and means test treatment will ensure veterans continue to get the same income support payment rates as they did prior to the Douglas decision.

The affected invalidity payments will continue to be exempt from the assets test.

Services Australia will implement new and updated technology solutions to ensure the new income stream and means test apply to affected customers.

This measure is subject to legislation passing.

### Who does this measure affect?

This supports customers who get an invalidity pension with a start date on or after 20 September 2007 from:

- the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme (MSBS)
- Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Scheme (DFRDB).

### When will this start and finish?

This measure will come into effect from the date legislation receives Royal Assent and will be ongoing.