



# Budget 2024-25

This information is accurate as of 14 May 2024.

## Carer Payment – increased flexibility

This measure changes the 25 hour per week rule to allow carers to work up to 100 hours over a 4-week settlement period. This provides carers greater flexibility and choice to structure their work commitments around their caring role.

This measure also delivers additional improvements for carers:

- Removing education and volunteering activities from the participation limit. This will support carers to build skills to help them get back to work if their caring responsibilities end.
- Removing travel time from the participation limit to provide more flexibility for carers to take up opportunities for work. This will help carers in regional and rural areas who are disadvantaged by the distance they may have to travel to take up suitable work.
- Allowing carers to use single temporary cessation of care (TCC) days. This provides carers with the flexibility to use their TCC days in a way that best suits their, and their care receiver's, needs.
- Suspending Carer Payment for up to 6 months when a carer exceeds the participation hours limit or TCC days. This allows Services Australia to restore their Carer Payment without them needing to lodge a claim when their work hours drop below the limit.

These changes are in response to recommendations in the:

- Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee's 2024 report
- 2020 Productivity Commission inquiry into mental health.

They also align with the government's focus on removing barriers to employment.

This measure is led by the Department of Social Services. Services Australia will get \$12.2 million through to 2027–28 to support this measure.

This measure is subject to legislation passing.

### Who this measure affects

This measure will reduce the burden on carers on Carer Payment:

- who may have a temporary spike in work hours
- who have their Carer Payment suspended for exceeding 100 hours work over 4 weeks or their allowable TCC days.

**When this starts and finishes**

This measure starts on 20 March 2025 and is ongoing.