



Rent Assistance

Rent Assistance gives financial help to people who pay rent and get a Centrelink payment from us.

Eligibility for Rent Assistance

You may get Rent Assistance if you get one of these payments from us:

- Age Pension, Carer Payment or Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY Living Allowance, Austudy or Youth Allowance
- Special Benefit
- more than the base rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A
- Parenting Payment partnered and single
- JobSeeker Payment or Farm Household Allowance.

You must also pay one of these:

- rent
- fees in a retirement village
- lodging
- board and lodging
- site or mooring fees if your main home is a caravan, relocatable home or a boat.

How much Rent Assistance you can get depends on how much rent you pay. The rent you pay each fortnight must be above a certain amount.

There are special rules for people living in a retirement village. We use the amount you paid when you entered the retirement village. We then assess if you are either, a:

- home owner
- non-home owner.

If we assess you as a non-home owner you may get Rent Assistance.

Special rules apply for some young people to get Rent Assistance with some payments.

These depend on both if you live with a parent or guardian and if you get one of these payments:

- ABSTUDY Living Allowance
- Disability Support Pension
- JobSeeker Payment
- Youth Allowance.

For more information you can **call us** in English on your main payment line. Let us know if you need an interpreter and we will arrange one for free. Go to **servicessaustralia.gov.au/phoneus** to find your payment line.

Rent Assistance is usually **not paid** if:

- you lease from a state or territory housing authority
- you own or are buying the home you live in, except relocatable homes

- you are travelling away from the home you own for less than 12 months
- the Australian Government pays a subsidy to the approved residential aged care facility where you live
- your partner gets Rent Assistance with Family Tax Benefit
- you get an allowance and your partner gets Rent Assistance with their pension.

Payment rates for Rent Assistance

We update Rent Assistance rates on 20 March and 20 September each year. For the latest rates in English go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/rentassistance and select How much you can get.

Getting Rent Assistance

You do not need to submit a claim for Rent Assistance. We check if you can get it when you claim a payment from us.

If you already get a payment from us we will check if you can get it when you pay rent and you either tell us:

- you have moved address
- the rent you pay has changed.

Change of circumstances

We need to know about changes that could affect or stop your Rent Assistance. If you do not tell us about changes in your life, we may pay you too much. If this happens, you will have to pay the money back.

To get the correct payment, it is important you tell us of any change of circumstance within 14 days. This includes if:

- you change or correct your name
- your rent costs change
- you move house
- your income changes
- your relationship or marital status changes
- the number of dependent children in your care changes
- people move in or out of the house you live in
- you travel outside Australia.

How to update your details

The easiest way to tell us about changes is with your Centrelink online account through myGov. If you do not have a myGov or Centrelink online account, you can create one. To find out how, go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/createonlineaccount

You can also tell us in English by:

- calling our Centrelink phone self service line on **136 240**
- calling us on your main payment number

- visiting a service centre.

Let us know if you need an interpreter, we can provide one for free.

Review of your rent details

We may review your rent details to check they are up to date. This is to make sure you are getting the right amount of Rent Assistance.

If we need this, we will send you a letter. If you get letters online, check your myGov Inbox and your Express Plus Centrelink mobile app. If you and your partner both get a review letter, just one of you needs to reply.

As part of the review, you need to confirm or update your rent details. If you do not complete your review by the due date, we will stop your Rent Assistance.

Providing proof of your rent arrangements

We may ask you to give us proof of the rent you pay to get Rent Assistance.

If we ask you to complete a Rent Certificate or give us a formal tenancy agreement, you can submit them:

- online
- by post
- at a service centre.

You only need to complete a Rent Certificate if we ask you to. We will post it to you.

For more information

- Go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/rentassistance in English.
- Go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/yourlanguage where you can read, listen to or watch information in your language.
- Call the Centrelink multilingual phone service on **131 202** to speak with us in your language about Centrelink payments and services.
- Visit a service centre.

Calls from your home phone to 13 numbers from anywhere in Australia are a fixed rate. That rate may vary from the price of a local call and may also vary between telephone service providers.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is 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.