



Youth Allowance for job seekers

Youth Allowance for job seekers gives you financial help if you are 21 years of age or younger and looking for work, or temporarily unable to work.

Eligibility for Youth Allowance for job seekers

The rules you need to meet to get Youth Allowance for job seekers depend on your situation.

You must be between 16 and 21 years of age and meet both:

- residence rules
- the income test.

You also need to be one of the following:

- unemployed and looking for work
- sick or injured and unable to do your usual work or study for a short time.

You may not be eligible if you get certain payments from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

Your current circumstances will be considered to assess your eligibility for Youth Allowance.

Payment rates for Youth Allowance for job seekers

The amount you can get may change depending on your personal situation. This includes:

- if you have a partner
- if you have children
- if you live at your parent's house
- if you live away from your parent's house to study, train or look for work
- if you own any assets, for example real estate, shares or managed investments
- how much income you and your partner earned in the past 14 days.

If you earn income over a certain amount, it may affect how much you can get.

How to claim Youth Allowance for job seekers

You can claim Youth Allowance for job seekers online using your Centrelink online account through myGov. If you do not have a myGov account or a Centrelink online account, you need to set them up.

If you need help to set up your online account, you can talk to our staff. Let us know if you need an interpreter and we will arrange one for free.

You can start your claim up to 13 weeks before your circumstances will change.

It may be for one of the following reasons:

- you are stopping fulltime studies
- you will be working less hours and you meet the personal income test
- you know you are going to lose your job.

You can withdraw your claim at any time if your financial situation changes.

When you get your first payment

You will need to complete your initial tasks and report your income before we can make your first payment.

In most cases, you will get your first Youth Allowance payment around 2 weeks after we approve your claim. You may have to wait longer if any waiting periods apply. Once your payment starts, we will pay you every 2 weeks.

We will tell you if you have a waiting period and how long you will need to wait. You will also need to report your and your partner's income every 2 weeks.

We calculate the waiting periods that apply to you when we assess your claim. You can expect to hear from us within 21 days of submitting your claim.

The time it takes us to assess your claim does not affect your waiting period.

Change of circumstances

You need to tell us about any changes of circumstances within 14 days. This includes changes for you:

- parents or guardians
- partner
- dependent children.

The changes may include:

- your personal and contact details
- study changes
- your living situation
- name changes
- family situation
- your relationship status
- your employment, income, and asset changes.

If your Centrelink online account is linked to myGov, you can tell us online about changes to your circumstances.

You can also tell us using either:

- the Express Plus Centrelink mobile app
- Centrelink phone self-service.

For more information

- go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/youthallowancejobseeker for more information in English
- go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/yourlanguage where you can read or listen to information in your language
- 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
- 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.