



Government Benefits

Carer payment and carer allowance

Aon Hewitt Financial Education Series

If you are caring for someone full-time who is frail aged, ill or has a disability then you may be eligible for Carer Payment and/or Carer Allowance.

Carer Payment

Carer Payment helps people to be cared for in the community and ensures their carers have adequate levels of income and maximum opportunities to participate in society. Carer payment is paid to the person providing full-time daily care and as a result is unable to work in paid employment.

To qualify for a Carer Payment, you must be:

- Providing constant daily care to a person;
- Caring for the person in the person's own home but you are not required to live with, or next to, the person being cared for;
- Not getting another Centrelink pension or benefit, or a Veterans' Affairs Service Pension or Partner Service Pension; and
- Able to meet residence requirements.

The person(s) needing care must meet certain eligibility requirements which can be found here on the human services website: <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/carers-payment>

When assessing the eligibility to receive Carer Payment, Centrelink uses Asset and Income tests to determine the entitlement. When Centrelink applies these tests, they use whichever test produces the lower payment.

Carer Allowance

Carer Allowance is an extra payment that helps parents or carers.

For a person to qualify for the Carer Allowance, the carer may be caring for a child under 16 years old or a person 16 years or over. Please refer to the human services website for the eligibility rules:

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/carer-allowance>

Carer allowance is not subject to the Income or Asset test. What you will receive will depend on the severity of the person being cared for disability and needs.

If you are entitled to the Carer Allowance on 1 July each year, you will also receive the following annual payments:

- Child Disability Assistance Payment of up to \$1,000 for each child in your care who qualifies you for carer allowance, and
- Carer Supplement of up to \$600 for each eligible income support payment and for each person that you receive carer allowance for.

Generally, if the Carer is caring for a child under 16 years old and qualifies to receive the Carer Payment, the carer would generally receive the Carer Allowance automatically.

For more information including eligibility and level of payments, please visit your local Centrelink office or go to their website at www.humanservices.gov.au

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This document, including all tax and super calculations, has been prepared using legislation in place as at 1 July 2018.