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081017 Families and Pensioners information sheet

Who will this payment assist?

Families - Around 1.9 million families **entitled to Family Tax Benefit Part A** for 3.6 million children. Families of another 222,000 dependent children who attract Youth Allowance, Abstudy or a Veteran's Children's Education Scheme payment, and who do not attract FTB-(A)

This package will assist around three quarters of families with dependent children.
(73% of families with dependent children, and 77% of dependent children.)

Pensioners - Over 4 million recipients, including:

- 2 million Age Pensioners -
- 715,000 Disability Support Pensioners
- 130,000 Carer Payment recipients
- 112,000 Wife and Widow Pensioners; Partner, Widow and Bereavement Allowees
- 200,000 Veterans' Affairs Service Pensioners
- 85,000 Veterans Income Support Supplement recipients
- 320,000 Commonwealth Senior Health Card (CSHC) holders and Veterans Gold Card holders who are eligible for Seniors Concession Allowance
- 470,000 Carer Allowance Recipients
- Around 1000 people of age pension age who receive Parenting Payment, Special Benefit or Austudy.

Social Security and Family Assistance payment rates (20 September 2008)

	per fortnight	per annum
Adult Pension (<i>Age, Disability Support, Carer Payment</i>)		
- single; including Pension Supplement	\$ 562.10	\$ 14,614.60
- couple, each; including Pension Supplement	\$ 469.50	\$ 12,207.00
- plus Utilities Allowance (per single or couple combined)		\$ 514.00
- plus Telephone Allowance (per single or couple (combined)) or higher rate of Telephone Allowance for home internet connection (per single or couple combined)		\$ 92.00
- plus Pharmaceutical Allowance (per single or couple (combined))	\$ 5.80	\$ 138.40
		\$ 150.80
- Seniors Concession Allowance (self funded retirees, each) – for holders of CSHC		\$ 514.00
Carer Allowance		
- adult and child	\$ 100.60	\$ 2,615.60
Family Tax Benefit (Part A)		
<i>maximum rate payable with income up to \$42,559 p/a – below this the rate tapers.</i>		\$ 42,559.00
- child aged under 13 (CPC Percentage applied)	\$ 151.34	\$ 3,945.65 ¹
- child aged 13-15 (CPC Percentage applied)	\$ 196.84	\$ 5,131.90
- child aged 16-17	\$ 48.30	\$ 1,259.14
- child aged 18-24	\$ 64.96	\$ 1,693.60
- <i>plus \$ 686.20 supplement per child per annum</i>		\$ 686.20

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Family Tax Benefit (Part A): Annual rates of FTB Part A do not include the FTB Part A Supplement (\$686.20 per child for the 2008-09 financial year). Note that the Supplement can only be paid after the end of the financial year.

ABS data from 2006-07 Survey 'Family Characteristics and Transitions' released June 2008

Families with dependent children (i.e. children under 15 years and full time students aged 15-24)

	Families	Dependent children
Total families with dependent children	2,711,000	5,027,000
Costing		
FTB (A) families with dependent children	1,870,000	3,641,232
YA, Abstudy and VCES (est families)	100,000	221,894
	1,970,000	3,863,126
Proportion of families and dependent children benefiting	73%	77%

Actual annual family income limit at which Family Tax Benefit stops (\$pa)

Number of children 0-17 years	Number of children 18-24 years			
	Nil	One	Two	Three
Nil		\$102,249	\$113,978	\$126,607
One	\$100,801	\$112,530	\$125,159	\$137,788
Two	\$111,082	\$123,711	\$136,340	\$148,969
Three	\$122,263	\$134,892*	\$147,521*	\$160,150*

* Income limit is higher than stated for three children aged 13 - 15.

Age Pension, Carer Payment, Disability Support Pension, Wife & Widow Pension are all pension payments paid at the same basic adult pension rate.

Carer Allowance

Carer Allowance is a supplementary payment for a person who is:

- caring for an adult or child with disability or severe medical condition who needs a lot of additional care and attention
- providing the care in either the person's home or the home of the care receiver.

Both the care provider and care receiver must be an Australian resident.

No income or assets test.

Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CHSC) – for self funded retirees

To qualify you must:

- have reached Age Pension age;
- be an Australian resident, living in Australia, and not subject to a newly arrived residents waiting period;
- not be receiving a social security pension or benefit, service pension or income support supplement; and
- have an annual adjusted taxable income of:
 - less than \$50 000 (singles),
 - less than \$80 000 (couples combined), or
 - less than \$100 000 (couples combined who are separated due to ill health).

- the limit is increased by \$639.60 for each dependent child you care for.

Lump sum 'one-off' payments made since 2004–05

Seniors/older Australians Bonus

2008–09 Budget

Seniors bonus

\$500 to individuals in receipt of AP, veterans' pensions, Widow B Pension, WP, MAA, WA, PA and SCA.

Total cost \$1.375 billion

2007–08 Budget

Seniors bonus payment

\$500 to individuals of Age Pension age receiving UA or SCA, MAA, WA and PA recipients.

Total cost \$1.311 billion

2006–07 Budget

Older Australians one-off bonus

\$102.80 to each household with a person of age or service pension age eligible for Utilities Allowance.

\$102.80 for each recipient of MAA, PA and WA (groups newly eligible for UA).

\$102.80 for each recipient of SCA.

Total cost \$200 million

Carer Bonus

2008–09 Budget

\$1,000 to Carer Payment recipients. \$600 to Carer Allowance recipients for each person in their care.

Total cost \$428 million

2007–08 Budget

\$1,000 to CP recipients. \$600 to CA recipients for each eligible person in their care.

CA recipients in receipt of WP of DVA partner service pension also receive both payments.

Total cost \$394 million

2006–07 Budget

\$1,000 to CP recipients. \$600 to CA recipients for each eligible person in their care.

CA recipients in receipt of WP of DVA partner service pension also receive both payments.

Total cost \$358 million

2005–06 Budget

\$1,000 to CP recipients. \$600 to CA recipients for each eligible person in their care.

Total cost \$316 million

2004–05 Budget

\$1,000 to CP recipients. \$600 to CA recipients.

Total cost \$255 million

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