

CARER ALLOWANCE

The logo for affinia, consisting of the word "affinia" in white lowercase letters inside a blue circle.

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An income payment is available to assist carers who provide additional daily care and attention for someone with a permanent or long term recognised disability or medical condition or who is frail aged.

There is no assets test for Carer Allowance but there is an income test. To get Carer Allowance, you and your partner's combined adjusted taxable income must be under \$250,000 a year. It is not taxable income and can be paid in addition to wages or other income support payments such as Carer Payment or Age Pension.

Both the carer and the care received must meet the eligibility criteria to claim Carer Allowance. Generally, the Carer Allowance will be received automatically for a child who is receiving the Carer Payment and is aged under 16 years old.

Carer Allowance is adjusted on 1 January each year in line with the Consumer Price Index.

Refer to the References section below for current allowances.

HOW IT WORKS

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT- CARER

To be eligible for Carer Allowance, carers must:

- provide additional daily care and attention to a person with a recognised disability or medical condition or an adult who is frail aged,
- satisfy the Australian residence requirements

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT- CARE RECEIVER

A Care Recipient can be:

- be a dependent child under 16 years, or
- be 2 dependent children under 16 years, each with a disability or medical condition whose combined care needs are equal to that of a single child with a severe disability or severe medical condition, or
- be 16 years or older with a recognised medical condition or is frail aged.

The Care Receiver must:

- have a condition listed as a recognised disability or achieve a qualifying rating or score
- be likely to suffer from the condition or disability permanently or for an extended period of at least 12 months
- meet the residence requirements, and
- receive care in their home or in hospital

WHAT YOU NEED TO CONSIDER

- You must also be physically present in Australia on the day you submit your claim.
- You may be eligible to receive the Carer Allowance if you are substantially caring for someone who is residing in a hospital for more than 20 hours per week.
- The amount of Carer Allowance you get depends on whether you are providing care for more than 1 person and whether you are in a shared care arrangement.
- Recognition of medical or disability status is not automatically recognised. Questionnaires must be completed by the carer and treating health professional. Set criteria applies to assess the care load and the disability of the care recipient.
- The government may change legislation and payment rates in the future.

REFERENCES



You may wish to refer to the following websites for further information about the carer allowance:

- www.ato.gov.au
- www.dss.gov.au
- www.serviceaustralia.gov.au

The information in this document is of a general nature and does not take into account your own financial objectives, circumstances or needs. You should consider your own personal situation and requirements before making a decision.

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