

Social Security Quick Reference Guide

The rates and thresholds in this QRG are for the period between 01 July 2019 and 19 September 2019.

Maximum rate of pension	Assets test	Single/illness separate couple (each)	Couple (each)
(Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment, DVA service pension & DVA invalidity pension)	Basic rate	\$843.60	\$635.90
	Maximum pension supplement*	\$68.50	\$51.60
	Energy supplement	\$14.10	\$10.60
	Total	\$926.20	\$698.10
*Includes minimum pension supplement of \$36.70 (single) and \$27.70 (couple each)			

Pension assets test	Assets test	For full pension	Cut-off limit
The maximum pension entitlement is reduced by \$3 per fortnight for every \$1,000 of assets over the lower threshold.	Single homeowner	\$263,250	\$572,000
	Single non-homeowner	\$473,750	\$782,500
	Couple homeowner (combined)	\$394,500	\$860,000
	Couple non-homeowner (combined)	\$605,000	\$1,070,500
	Illness-separated couple homeowner (combined)	\$394,500	\$1,012,000
	Illness-separated couple non-homeowner (combined)	\$605,000	\$1,222,500

Pension income test	Family situation	Fortnightly income for full pension	Cut-off limit (pf)
The maximum pension entitlement is reduced by 50 cents for every dollar over the lower threshold for a single person and 25 cents for every dollar for each member of a couple.	Single	Up to \$174	\$2,026.40
	Couple (combined)	Up to \$308	\$3,100.40
	Illness separated, couple combined	Up to \$308	\$4,012.80 couple combined

Deeming thresholds and rates	Family situation	Lower deeming rate	Upper deeming rate
The deeming rates shown are the latest deeming rates as announced by the Government on 14 July 2019. It will apply from 1 July 2019, however increase to entitlements will commence in late September 2019.	Single	1.00% for first \$51,800 (\$518)	3.00% for amounts above \$51,800
	Couple where at least one member receives a pension (combined)	1.00% for first \$86,200 (\$862)	3.00% for amounts above \$86,200
	Non Pensioner couple (each)	1.00% for first \$43,100 (\$431)	3.00% for amounts above \$43,100

Maximum amount held only in financial investments to receive full rate of pension	Family situation	Financial investments
	Single	\$185,333
	Couple	\$324,400
Examples of financial investments for deeming includes: cash, term deposits, managed funds, listed and unlisted shares, bonds, loans to individuals, accumulation phase super for people over age pension age, deprived assets, short time asset tested income streams and account based pensions (except those commenced prior to 1 Jan 2015 and qualified for grandfathering provisions).		

Exempt funeral bonds	Family situation	Amount
	Single	\$13,250
	Couple (each policy must be in each member's individual name)	\$26,500

Maximum rate of allowances	Family situation	Fortnight*	Annual*
(Newstart Allowance, Widow Allowance, Partner Allowance and Sickness Allowance)	Single, 22 or over, no child(ren)	\$564.50	\$14,677
	Single, 22 or over, dependent children	\$610.60	\$15,875.60
	Single, 60 or over, after 9 months on payment (including pharmaceutical allowance)	\$616.80	\$16,036.80
	Couple (each)	\$512.70	\$13,330.20
*Includes Energy Supplement.			

Allowance asset test

No payment if applicant's assets exceed above asset thresholds.

Family situation	Asset threshold
Single homeowner	\$263,250
Single non-homeowner	\$473,750
Couple homeowner (combined)	\$394,500
Couple non-homeowner (combined)	\$605,000

Allowance income test

Fortnightly income between the lower and upper threshold reduces maximum allowance by 50 cents in the dollar. Income above upper threshold reduces fortnightly allowance by 60 cents in the dollar. Partner's fortnightly income that exceeds \$970 reduces fortnightly allowance by 60 cents in the dollar.

Family situation	Lower threshold (pf)	Upper threshold (pf)	Cut-off threshold (pf)
Single, 22 or over, no child(ren)	\$104	\$254	\$1,069.84
Single, 22 or over, dependent children	\$104	\$254	\$1,146.67
Single, 60 or over, after 9 months on payment (including pharmaceutical allowance)	\$104	\$254	\$1,157.00
Couple (each)	\$104	\$254	\$978.34

Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC)

Family situation	Annual income limit
Single	\$54,929
Couple (combined)	\$87,884
Couple, illness-separated (combined)	\$109,858
For each additional child add	\$639.60

Eligibility to the CSHC is determined based on the individual's Adjusted Taxable Income (ATI). ATI is the sum of: taxable income, fringe benefit value, target foreign income, net investment losses, reportable superannuation contributions, deemed income on ABPs (unless grandfathered or the ABP is owned by a partner aged under 60).

Low income health care card (LIHCC)

Family situation	Weekly income to qualify ¹	Weekly income to lose the card (existing cardholders) ²
Single, no children	\$561	\$701.25
Couple (combined), no children	\$969	\$1,211.25
Single, one dependent child	\$969	\$1,211.25
Additional amount for each dependent child	\$34	\$42.50

1. To be eligible for the LIHCC, applicant's average Centrelink income must be below the lower qualifying limit for the eight-week period immediately prior to the application.
2. Once a LIHCC has been issued, weekly income must not exceed the limits below the disqualifying limit during the entitlement period.

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- Hospital in the home

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