

Social Security Quick Reference Guide

The rates and thresholds in this QRG are for the period between 1 July 2020 and 19 September 2020.

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	\$860.60	\$648.70
	Maximum pension supplement*	\$69.60	\$52.50
	Energy supplement	\$14.10	\$10.60
	Total	\$944.30	\$711.80
*Includes minimum pension supplement of \$36.40 (single) and \$28.20 (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	\$268,000	\$583,000
	Single non-homeowner	\$482,500	\$797,500
	Couple homeowner (combined)	\$401,500	\$876,500
	Couple non-homeowner (combined)	\$616,000	\$1,091,000
	Illness-separated couple homeowner (combined)	\$401,500	\$1,031,500
	Illness-separated couple non-homeowner (combined)	\$616,000	\$1,246,000

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 \$178	\$2,066.60
	Couple (combined)	Up to \$316	\$3,163.20
	Illness-separated couple (combined)	Up to \$316	\$4,093.20

Deeming thresholds and rates	Family situation	Lower deeming rate	Upper deeming rate
1 July 2020 to 19 September 2020			
	Single	0.25% for first \$53,000 (\$132.50)	2.25% for amounts above \$53,000
	Couple where at least one member receives a pension (combined)	0.25% for first \$88,000 (\$220)	2.25% for amounts above \$88,000
	Non Pensioner couple (each)	0.25% for first \$44,000 (\$110)	2.25% for amounts above \$44,000

Maximum amount held only in financial investments to receive full rate of pension	Financial investments	
Family situation	Single	\$252,800
	Couple	\$443,338
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	\$13,500
	Couple (each policy must be in each member's individual name)	\$27,000

Maximum rate of allowances	Family situation	Fortnight*	Annual*
(JobSeeker Payment, Widow Allowance, Partner Allowance and Sickness Allowance)	Single, 22 or over, no child(ren)	\$574.50	\$14,937.00
	Single, 22 or over, dependent children	\$621.50	\$16,159.00
	Single, 60 or over, after 9 months on payment (including pharmaceutical allowance)	\$627.70	\$16,320.20
	Couple (each)	\$518.70	\$13,486.20

*Includes Energy Supplement.

Allowance asset test	Family situation	Asset threshold
No payment if applicant's assets exceed above asset thresholds.	Single homeowner	\$268,000
	Single non-homeowner	\$482,500
	Couple homeowner (combined)	\$401,500
	Couple non-homeowner (combined)	\$616,000

Allowance income test	Family situation	Lower threshold (pf)	Upper threshold (pf)	Cut-off threshold (pf)
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.	Single, 22 or over, no child(ren)	\$106	\$256	\$1,088.50
	Single, 22 or over, dependent children	\$106	\$256	\$1,166.84
	Single, 60 or over, after 9 months on payment (including pharmaceutical allowance)	\$106	\$256	\$1,177.17
	Couple (each)	\$106	\$256	\$995.50

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 qualify¹	Weekly income to lose the card (existing cardholders)²
	Single, no children	\$571	\$713
	Couple (combined), no children	\$985	\$1,231.25
	Single, one dependent child	\$985	\$1,231.25
	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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