



COVID-19 Stimulus Package

Income Support for Self Employed

What is it?

Income support is a Human Services (formerly Centrelink) benefit to support the unemployed. In addition to the usual payment for these benefits the Government are introducing a Coronavirus supplement of \$550 per fortnight to both existing and new recipients for 6 months.

Are you eligible?

To be eligible, you need to have experienced a decrease in income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligibility is based on income earned fortnightly, as reported with Human Services via online services. The maximum income you can earn before payments are cut off are capped as per below:

Your Situation	Income cut off point
You're single, no children	\$1,086.50
You have a partner who doesn't get a pension	\$993.50
You're single, principal carer of a dependent child	\$1,672.25
You're single, principal carer of a dependent child, no mutual obligations requirement	\$2,214.75
You're single, with a dependent child but not the principal carer	\$1,164.84

(Please note, your partners income is assessed to determine your eligibility. If your spouse earns more than \$994 per fortnight, your benefit will reduce by 60 cents for every dollar they earn over this amount)

Sole traders that become eligible for the Jobseeker payment will automatically meet mutual obligation requirements. For example, they are not required to actively look for work.

Majority of Human Services eligibility requirements, including waiting times, have been waived to support a quick application and payment of benefits.

What does this entitle you to?

Access to traditional welfare benefits, such as Jobseeker and Youth Allowance.

Your benefit to be received is subject to income reported to Human Services, and will vary according to your personal circumstances.

On top of the above, an additional payment of \$550 per fortnight will be accessible to both existing and new recipients for 6 months

When do I get this payment?

The Coronavirus supplement and easier access to payments will commence from **27 April 2020**.

We recommend commencing applications prior to this date to access welfare support as soon as possible

This information is true and correct as at 23rd March 2020.

Further information and updates as they arise will be provided promptly by our team.



How do I apply?

From April 2020, new applicants will be able to set themselves up with Services Australia via the following methods:

- Telephone - 132 850
- Online via MyGov – my.gov.au
- Local Centrelink Offices

How does this ACTUALLY apply to me?

Upon application for welfare support payments, you will be required to report to Human Services fortnightly your gross income earned.

Subject to your earnings for the reported fortnight, Human Services will calculate your entitlement and pay out a benefit accordingly.

If your fortnightly reporting obligations are met, you will receive a cash benefit equal to what is calculated by Human Services, including the increased benefit of up to \$550 per fortnight.

What are our recommendations on this?

If you anticipate your current or future earnings to be detrimentally impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we recommend registering with Human Services as soon as possible.

To minimise waiting times, your FASTEST approach is to setup an account using MYGOV.

We anticipate substantial waiting times at local Human Services offices and via telephone due to the increased requirement for financial support during this time.

By registering as soon as possible, you will be able to access financial welfare instantly rather than waiting at a time when it is direly needed.

In the instance you generate income over the limit for a particular fortnight, you will simply not receive a benefit, however for other fortnights that you do not generate income you will be given instant cashflow and financial support.