



Australian Government
Department of Human Services

centrelink

Retrenched or leaving your job

If you've taken a redundancy or leave payment from your employer, we can provide you with support while you're looking for another job.

Payments you may be eligible for

Newstart Allowance

Newstart Allowance provides financial help if you are looking for work and supports you while you take part in activities that may increase your chances of finding a job.

Parenting Payment

Parenting Payment provides help to parents or guardians who are raising children. Parenting Payment is paid to the main carer of a child. Only one parent or guardian can receive the payment.

Youth Allowance

Youth Allowance provides financial help for young people. You may be able to get Youth Allowance if you are studying full-time, undertaking a full-time Australian Apprenticeship, training, looking for work or are sick.

Mature aged job seekers

Job seekers aged between 55 and age pension age may still need to apply for Newstart Allowance and have the same activity test requirements as any other job seeker.

If you have reached the age pension age, you should apply for Age Pension. Visit humanservices.gov.au for more information about Age Pension.

Waiting periods

Leave and redundancy payments are designed to provide you with enough money to cover the cost of living for a period of time after you leave work. If you receive a redundancy payment, you may be subjected to a waiting period before you can get an income support payment from Centrelink. This period is usually the length of time the redundancy covers.

Before you take any action with your redundancy payment, make sure you check the terms of your redundancy package, including the period of time the payment is supposed to cover. A one-week waiting period applies to most people who claim Newstart Allowance. This may be in addition to any other waiting period. You should contact Centrelink as early as possible to discuss your individual situation.

The Income Maintenance Period

The Income Maintenance Period is a period of time where leave and redundancy payments you or your partner have received are treated as income. For example, a 10-week redundancy payment would result in a 10-week Income Maintenance Period from the date it was received. The only exception is if some of your payment is rolled directly into superannuation under the Transitional Employer Termination Payment provisions.