



Health, welfare and jobs

Additional support payments for welfare recipients

Government support recipients will receive two separate economic support payments of \$250, to be paid progressively from December 2020 and March 2021.

This follows two previous payments of \$750 to eligible recipients, with the new payments estimated to cost a total of \$2.6 billion.

What this could mean for you

You may be eligible for the two payments of \$250 if you're currently receiving:

- Age Pension (including Age Pension (Blind))
- Carer Allowance*
- Carer Payment
- Commonwealth Seniors Health Card
- Disability Support Pension (including Disability Support Pension (Blind))
- Double Orphan Pension*
- DVA Gold card
- DVA Payments
- DVA Seniors Card
- Family Tax Benefit (fortnightly recipients)*
- Family Tax Benefit (lump sum recipients)*
- Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holders (covers non-income and asset test PCC holders and people who have an extended entitlement to a PCC even though their payment has stopped).

* You might not be eligible if you're receiving a primary income support payment. To determine if you're eligible, we recommend you speak to Centrelink or your financial adviser if you have one.

Health services

Coronavirus has taken its toll on the mental health of many Australians. Therefore, the number of psychological services funded by Medicare will be doubled from 10 to 20, effective immediately.

The NDIS will also receive additional funding of almost \$4 billion, to provide essential support to Australians living with a disability.

Women facing ovarian cancer will now be able to access the drug Lynparza through the PBS. Rather than costing \$140,000 per course, general patients will now pay around \$41 for a script while concession card holders will be charged \$6.60.

What this could mean for you

If you currently access any of these services, or think you may need to in the future, it's important to understand what you're eligible for. As the first step, we recommend you speak with your doctor.

New jobs in key industries

The Government is committing \$1.5 billion over five years from 2020–21 to support the building of competitiveness, scale and resilience in the Australian manufacturing sector. It will focus on six key industries of strategic interest:

- defence
- space
- medicine and medical products
- food and beverages
- resources technology
- recycling and clean energy.

Rural communities will benefit from \$2 billion in funding over 10 years to improve water infrastructure, while regional businesses will benefit from an expansion of the instant asset write-off scheme. Regions that rely on international tourism will benefit from their share of \$51 million in funding over two years to diversify their markets.

While the Budget doesn't offer much financial relief to female workers currently impacted by Coronavirus, the government is committing \$240 million over four years towards a range of employment initiatives for women. These include increasing female workforce participation in male-dominated industries such as construction.

What this could mean for you

With the pandemic causing massive job losses around the country, these measures are designed to get as many Australians back to work as possible. While some industries may currently offer more opportunities than others, it's likely that many industries will be in a state of flux for years to come.