



Rates and Limits

Pension Rates, Limits and Allowances Summary

Overview

This Factsheet provides the current rates and limits for:

- service pension;
- age pension;
- income support supplement;
- disability pension;
- war widow's and widower's pension; *and*
- all associated allowances under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA).

For information about payments under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA), refer to *Factsheet MRC 04: Compensation Payment Rates*.

For information about the calculation of Defence Force Income Support Allowance (DFISA) refer to *Factsheet IS 19: Defence Force Income Support Allowance (DFISA)*.

The rates quoted are fortnightly amounts unless otherwise indicated. These rates are current from *20 September 2009* to *31 December 2009*.

If your pension is still assessed under the pre-20 September 2009 rules, please refer to the rates labelled as "Transition" rates and limits.

Service and age pension — maximum rates

Current maximum rates

Singles rate	\$ 671.90
Couples rate (each)	\$ 506.50

Transition maximum rates

Singles rate	\$ 624.90
Couples rate (each)	\$ 504.70

Pension Rates, Limits and Allowances Summary, *continued*

Pension Supplement

Current maximum rates

Singles rate	\$56.10
Couples rate (each)	\$42.30

Note: For pensioners paid under pre-20 September 2009 rules, the Pension Supplement is included in the transition rate of service / age pension that you receive. As such, your DVA advice letters will not separately list a Pension Supplement amount.

Income support supplement

Ceiling rate	\$ 202.50
Transition Ceiling rate	\$ 202.50

Seniors Supplement

Singles rate (per quarter)	\$785.20
Couples rate combined (per quarter)	\$1185.60

Veterans Supplement

Low Rate	\$ 6.00
High Rate	\$12.00

Disability pension rates

Special rate (T&PI, blinded or TTI)	\$1,022.10
Intermediate rate	\$ 693.50
Extreme disablement adjustment (EDA)	\$ 564.10

General rate

100%	\$ 363.10	50%	\$ 181.55
95%	\$ 344.95	45%	\$ 163.40
90%	\$ 326.79	40%	\$ 145.24
85%	\$ 308.64	35%	\$ 127.09
80%	\$ 290.48	30%	\$ 108.93
75%	\$ 272.33	25%	\$ 90.78
70%	\$ 254.17	20%	\$ 72.62
65%	\$ 236.02	15%	\$ 54.47
60%	\$ 217.86	10%	\$ 36.31
55%	\$ 199.71		

Pension Rates, Limits and Allowances Summary, *continued*

Additional Disability Pension for Specific Disabilities

Items 1—6	\$ 561.00
Item 7	\$ 187.10
Item 8	\$ 126.30
Items 9 & 10	\$ 108.20
Item 11 & 13	\$ 54.20
Item 12 & 14	\$ 28.20
Item 15	\$ 41.90

War widow's or widower's pension

Total War widows and widower's pension	\$ 679.00
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Orphan's pension

Single orphan	\$ 84.40
Double orphan	\$ 168.80

Rent assistance

Maximum amount payable

Singles rate, no children	\$ 111.80
Couples rate, no children (combined)	\$ 105.40

Rent thresholds

Singles rate, no children	\$ 99.40
Couples rate, no children (combined)	\$ 162.00

Singles rate, with children	\$ 130.90
Couples rate, with children (combined)	\$ 193.62

Note: For service and social security age pensioners with dependent children, rent assistance is considered a child-related payment and is paid as part of Family Tax Benefit Part A through the Family Assistance Office.

Pension Rates, Limits and Allowances Summary, *continued*

Remote area allowance

Singles rate	\$ 18.20
Couples rate (each)	\$ 15.60
Each child	\$ 7.30

Family Tax Benefit

Family Tax Benefit may be paid to income support pensioners in respect of dependent children.

Veterans' Affairs income support pensioners receive the maximum rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A irrespective of their income. If income support is not received for a period of time, the normal income test for FTB A will apply during that period. This may result in less than the maximum rate of payment being received until the DVA benefit becomes payable again.

Application for and enquiries about payment of this benefit should be made to the Family Assistance Office, which is located in all Medicare offices, Centrelink outlets and ATO access and enquiry sites. You can also visit their Internet site at: **www.familyassist.gov.au**

Recreation transport allowance

High rate	\$ 74.90
Low rate	\$ 37.30

Vehicle Assistance Scheme

	per year
Maintenance and running costs	\$1,947.40

Attendant allowance

High rate	\$ 280.50
Low rate	\$ 140.10

Clothing allowance

High rate	\$ 11.70
Mid rate	\$ 8.00
Low rate	\$ 5.40

Pension Rates, Limits and Allowances Summary, *continued*

Veterans' Children Education Scheme (VCES)

Primary students \$ 223.70 (per year)

Secondary and tertiary students (fortnightly rate)

Age	At home	Living away from home	Homeless
Under 16	\$ 46.00	\$ 348.46	\$ 371.40
16-17	\$ 203.30	\$ 371.40	\$ 371.40
18 & over	\$ 244.40	\$ 371.40	\$ 371.40

Decoration allowance

Decoration allowance \$ 2.10

Victoria Cross allowance

Victoria Cross allowance of \$3,732 per annum is paid to those veterans who have been awarded this decoration.

Income limit before service and Social Security pension reduces

Current limits

Singles	\$ 142.00
Couples (combined)	\$ 248.00
Illness separated couples (combined)	\$ 248.00

Note: If you are eligible for the Work Bonus, these figures may not be accurate. For more information refer to the *Factsheet IS99 Work Bonus*.

Transition Limits

For each child, increase above limits by: \$ 24.60

Work Bonus

Work Bonus Income Concession \$500.00

Pension Rates, Limits and Allowances Summary, *continued*

Assets limit before service and Social Security age pension reduces

Homeowners

Singles	\$178,000
Couples (combined)	\$252,500
Illness separated couples (combined)	\$252,500

Non-homeowners

Singles	\$307,000
Couples (combined)	\$381,500
Illness separated couples (combined)	\$381,500

Service and Social Security age pension Income cut-off limit

Current limits

Singles	\$1,485.80
Couples (combined)	\$2,274.00
Illness separated couples (combined)	\$2,935.60

Note: If you are eligible for the Work Bonus, these figures may not be accurate. For more information refer to the *Factsheet IS99 Work Bonus*.

Transition Limits

Singles	\$1,704.25
Couples (combined)	\$2,771.50
Illness separated couples (combined)	

Service & Social Security age Pension assets cut-off limit

Current Limits

Homeowner

Singles	\$626,000
Couples (combined)	\$928,000
Illness separated couples (combined)	\$1,148,500

Non-homeowner

Singles	\$755,000
Couples (combined)	\$1,057,000
Illness separated couples (combined)	\$1,277,500

Pension Rates, Limits and Allowances Summary, *continued*

Service & Social Security age Pension assets cut-off limit, *continued*

Transition Limits

Homeowner

Singles	\$594,750
Couples (combined)	\$925,500
Illness separated couples (combined)	\$1,086,000

Non-homeowner

Singles	\$723,750
Couples (combined)	\$1,054,500
Illness separated couples (combined)	\$1,215,000

Income and assets cut-off limit for the Gold Card for Service Pensioners

Income	per fortnight
Singles	\$ 352.00
Couples (combined)	\$ 609.20

Assets

Homeowners

Singles	\$248,000
Couples (combined)	\$373,000

Non-homeowners

Singles	\$377,000
Couples (combined)	\$502,000

Transition Limits

Income

Singles	\$404.50
Couples (combined)	\$699.50
For each child, increase by:	\$24.60

Assets

Homeowners

Singles	\$248,000
Couples (combined)	\$373,000

Non-homeowners

Singles	\$377,000
Couples (combined)	\$502,000

Pension Rates, Limits and Allowances Summary, *continued*

Income limit before Income Support Supplement (ISS) reduces

These amounts include the war widow's or widower's pension.

Current Limits

Singles	\$1,080.80*
Couples (combined)	\$1,464.00*
Illness Separated Couples (combined)	\$2,125.60*

Note: If you are eligible for the Work Bonus, these figures may not be accurate. For more information refer to the *Factsheet IS99 Work Bonus*.

Transition Limits

Singles	\$1,198.00
Couples (combined)	\$1,759.00
Illness Separated Couples (combined)	\$2,360.00
For each child, increase by	\$24.60

Assets limit before ISS reduces

Homeowners

Singles	\$491,000
Couples (combined)	\$658,000
Illness Separated Couples (combined)	\$878,500

Non-homeowners

Singles	\$620,000
Couples (combined)	\$787,000
Illness Separated Couples (combined)	\$1,007,500

Transition Limits

Homeowner

Singles	\$459,750
Couples (combined)	\$655,500
Illness Separated Couples (combined)	\$816,000

Non-homeowner

Singles	\$588,750
Couples (combined)	\$784,500
Illness Separated Couples (combined)	\$945,000

Pension Rates, Limits and Allowances Summary, *continued*

Income cut-off limit for ISS pensioners

These amounts include the war widow's or widower's pension.

Current Rates

Singles	\$1,485.80*
Couples (combined)	\$2,274.00*
Illness Separated Couples (combined)	\$2,935.60*

Note: If you are eligible for the Work Bonus, these figures may not be accurate. For more information refer to the *Factsheet IS99 Work Bonus*.

Transition Rates

Singles	\$1,704.25
Couples (combined)	\$2,771.50
Illness Separated Couples (combined)	\$3,372.50

Note : These amounts will vary if you were in receipt of a social security and war widow's pension prior to 1 November 1986 and your maximum rate of income support supplement is more than \$ 202.50 per fortnight.

Assets cut-off limit for ISS pensioners

Current Limits

Homeowner

Singles	\$626,000
Couples (combined)	\$928,000
Illness Separated Couples (combined)	\$1,148,500

Non-homeowner

Singles	\$755,000
Couples (combined)	\$1,057,000
Illness Separated Couples (combined)	\$1,277,500

Pension Rates, Limits and Allowances Summary, *continued*

Assets cut-off limit for ISS pensioners *continued*

Transition Limits

Homeowner

Singles	\$594,750
Couples (combined)	\$925,500
Illness Separated Couples (combined)	\$1,086,000

Non-homeowner

Singles	\$723,750
Couples (combined)	\$1,054,500
Illness Separated Couples (combined)	\$1,215,000

Income limits for student children / earnings limits for employed children

Employed Child (under 16 years)	\$8,998.60 per year
Student Child (16-22 years)	\$9,484.80 per year

Commonwealth Seniors Health Card income limit

Singles	\$50,000 per year
Couples (combined)	\$80,000 per year
Illness Separated Couples (combined)	\$100,000 per year

Deeming

	Singles	Couples
Low	2.0% interest up to the threshold of \$42,000	2.0% interest up to the threshold of \$70,000
High	3.0% interest for the remaining balance	3.0% interest for the remaining balance

Funeral benefits

Assistance of up to \$2,000 is payable towards funeral expenses of certain veterans including T&PI veterans, those whose death is accepted as being war or service caused, and those who died in needy circumstances.

Pension Rates, Limits and Allowances Summary, *continued*

More information

All DVA Factsheets are available from DVA offices, and on the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au.

You can phone DVA for the cost* of a local call on 133 254 or free call 1800 555 254 if you are outside a major city.

Note: *Use a normal landline phone if you can. Mobile phone calls may cost you more. Local call rates vary depending on your phone service provider

You can send an email to DVA at: GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au.

You can get more help from any DVA office.