



Family Tax Benefit

Family Tax Benefit is a two part payment that helps with the cost of raising children.

Family Tax Benefit Part A is paid for each child. The amount you get depends on your family's circumstances. If a child enters your care before they turn one, or you adopt a child of any age, you may get an increase to your Family Tax Benefit Part A. This is called Newborn Upfront Payment and Newborn Supplement.

Family Tax Benefit Part B gives extra help to single parents, non-parent carers (including grandparents) and couples with one main income earner. Your claim will be income tested and the amount you get will depend on the age of your youngest child.

In some situations, you may share the care of a child. If you are in this situation, you may still be eligible to get some Family Tax Benefit for the child if you care for them at least 35 per cent of the time.

Eligibility

Family Tax Benefit Part A

You may be eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A if you care for a dependent child who is:

- younger than 15 years of age, or
- 16 to 19 years of age, and
 - undertaking full-time education in an approved course leading towards a year 12 or equivalent qualification with an acceptable study load, or
 - has been granted an exemption from education requirements.

If you are eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A for a dependent child aged 16 to 19 years of age, it can be paid until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 19 years of age, if they continue in full-time secondary study.

Family Tax Benefit Part B

If you are a member of a couple, you may be eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part B if you have care of a dependent child younger than 13 years of age.

If you are a single parent, grandparent or great-grandparent carer, you may be eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part B if you care for a child who is:

- younger than 16 years of age, or
- a full-time secondary student, up until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 18 years of age.

Home schooling for children 16 to 19 years of age does not satisfy study requirements for Family Tax Benefit.

Immunisation requirements

2017-18 is the last year immunisation requirements are linked to the Family Tax Benefit Part A supplement.

From 1 July 2018, if your child does not meet the immunisation requirements, we may reduce your rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A.



If you are receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A and an income support payment

You need to make sure each child you are receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A for has a health check if they turn four on or after 1 July 2018. You need to tell us once the health check is complete. This must be done before the child's fifth birthday. If you do not tell us, we may reduce your Family Tax Benefit Part A payments.

We may reduce your payments for up to 26 fortnights. This is based on how long you got Family Tax Benefit Part A, and you or your partner got an income support payment.

Residence requirements

To be eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A and Part B, you must satisfy residence requirements.

You must be living in Australia and either:

- have Australian citizenship
- hold a permanent visa
- hold a Special Category Visa, or
- hold a certain temporary visa type, for example a Partner Provisional or Temporary Protection visa.

Your child must also meet the residence requirements or be living with you and you must continue to meet the residence requirements for as long as you get this payment.

If your permanent visa is granted on or after 1 January 2019, you must be living and physically residing in Australia for a period or periods that total at least one year before you can get Family Tax Benefit Part A.

You may not have to serve a Newly Arrived Resident's Waiting Period if you:

- are an Australian citizen, or
- arrived on a New Zealand passport (i.e., held or hold a Special Category visa), or
- are a refugee or former refugee, or
- hold or previously held a specific visa subclass, or
- are the partner of a refugee, former refugee or humanitarian migrant, and were the partner of that person at the time they arrived in Australia, or
- are in receipt of a social security benefit, social security pension, Parental Leave Pay, Dad and Partner Pay or Farm Household Allowance
- were granted a visa allowing eligibility for Family Tax Benefit before 1 January 2019, or

If you are eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part B, you can get this while you are serving the Newly Arrived Resident's Waiting Period for Family Tax Benefit Part A.

Child support and Family Tax Benefit

If you get Family Tax Benefit and you or your partner get or pay child support, we will consider your child support when we calculate your Family Tax Benefit payment. If you share the care of your child, we will work out your percentage of care and use this to calculate how much Family Tax Benefit and child support you are eligible for.

Claiming

You can choose to get Family Tax Benefit fortnightly or as an annual lump sum. You need to submit a claim online or complete a claim form. Annual lump sum claims must be submitted within 12 months of the end of the financial year.

You also need to:

- make sure you and your partner lodge tax returns within 12 months of the end of the financial year and have the Australian Taxation Office confirm the income for you and your partner, or
- tell us that you are not required to lodge a tax return within 12 months of the end of the financial year.

If you choose to get Family Tax Benefit fortnightly, you also need to estimate your income throughout the year.

Balancing your Family Tax Benefit

Before the start of each financial year, which begins on 1 July, we ask you to estimate your family income so we can work out how much Family Tax Benefit to pay you over the next financial year.

After the end of each financial year, which finishes on 30 June, we balance your payment. This means we compare the amount of Family Tax Benefit we paid you based on your estimate, against how much you should have received, based on your actual family income for that financial year.

If the amount of Family Tax Benefit you received is not the same as the amount you should have received, your payments will be adjusted.

If you overestimated your income, you may have received less Family Tax Benefit than you were eligible for. If you underestimated your income, you may have been paid too much and may need to pay it back.

Your eligibility for Family Tax Benefit Part A and Family Tax Benefit Part B supplements will be assessed and paid, if eligible, during the balancing process.

For more information

- go to humanservices.gov.au/ftb for more information in English
- go to humanservices.gov.au/yourlanguage where you can read, listen to or watch information in your language
- call **131 202** to speak with us in your language about Centrelink payments and services
- call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on **131 450** to speak with us in your language about Medicare and Child Support payments and services
- visit a service centre.

Note: calls from your home phone to '13' numbers from anywhere in Australia are charged at a fixed rate. That rate may vary from the price of a local call and may also vary between telephone service providers. Calls to '1800' numbers from your home phone are free. Calls from public and mobile phones may be timed and charged at a higher rate.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is intended only as a guide to payments and services. It's your responsibility to decide if you wish to apply for a payment and to make an application with regard to your particular circumstances.