



Australian Government

Department of Families,
Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs

Carer Adjustment Payment Fact Sheet

An Introduction to the Carer Adjustment Payment

The Carer Adjustment Payment is an ex gratia scheme providing one-off financial assistance to families in exceptional circumstances who do not qualify for any Government income support payments.

The Carer Adjustment Payment scheme is available to families where, following a catastrophic event involving a young child aged under seven years, the family is going through a period of significant adjustment as a result of the care needs of that child.

The Carer Adjustment Payment is to assist families with additional costs during their adjustment period immediately after a catastrophic event.

Examples of catastrophic events may include (but are not limited to):

- diagnosis of a severe medical condition such as childhood cancer
- childhood stroke
- car accident
- fire
- fall
- poisoning
- near drowning
- other type of accident

NOTE: For the purpose of this payment a claimant must be eligible for and receiving Carer Allowance for the child.

Who may be eligible for assistance?

Families may qualify for assistance through the Carer Adjustment Payment where, following a catastrophic event:

- the child, aged under seven years, is diagnosed with a severe disability or severe medical condition AND
- the child has significant care requirements – that is, requires full-time care from the carer for a minimum of two months following the incident AND
- the child's carer is eligible for and receiving Carer Allowance in respect of the child AND
- the carer is not qualified for and receiving Carer Payment AND

- the carer and/or their partner is not qualified for and receiving an alternative income support payment AND
- the carer is able to demonstrate a very strong need for financial support during the adjustment period after the catastrophic event.

When to Claim this assistance

Your claim for Carer Adjustment Payment must be lodged with the Australian Government Department of Human Services (Centrelink) within two years from the date of diagnosis of a severe disability or severe medical condition following the catastrophic event.

How much will be paid?

The Carer Adjustment Payment is a one-off non-taxable payment available to families in exceptional circumstances. The amount payable depends on the family's individual circumstances. The amount available to any family is up to \$10,000 for each child in a single catastrophic event.

Making a Case

All eligible applications for the Carer Adjustment Payment are considered on a case-by-case basis by an independent panel of experts with medical, carer and payment expertise. Carers will need to present their case by setting out their circumstances and the ways in which the family needs extra support and assistance during the adjustment period.

This may include disruptions to things like the carer's capacity to work and/or the care arrangements for the child or other children in the family.

The expert panel will make a recommendation to the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) based on your individual circumstances. The decision on Carer Adjustment Payment claims will be made by a senior FaHCSIA official.

More Information

You can obtain a Carer Adjustment Payment claim form by phoning Centrelink on 13 27 17, by downloading a form from the Centrelink website at www.centrelink.gov.au, or from your local Centrelink Office.

Completed claim forms can be lodged at your local Centrelink Office.

More information about the Carer Adjustment Payment, including a Questions and Answers page, is available on the FaHCSIA website at www.fahcsia.gov.au.