Social Security Quick Reference Guide

September 2026

Maximum rate of pension

20 September 2026 - 19 March 2027

Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment & DVA invalidity pension.

Assets test	Single/Illness separate couple (each)	Couple (each)
Basic rate	$1,135.40	$855.90
Maximum pension supplement[1]	$88.20	$66.50
Energy supplement	$14.10	$10.60
Total	**$1,237.70**	**$933.00**

1. Includes minimum pension supplement of $46.60 (single) and $35.10 (couple each)

Pension assets test

20 September 2026 - 19 March 2027

The maximum pension entitlement is reduced by $3 per fortnight for every $1,000 of assets over the lower threshold.

Assets test	For full pension	Cut-off limit
Single homeowner	$333,000	$745,750
Single non-homeowner	$600,000	$1,012,750
Couple homeowner (combined)	$499,000	$1,121,000
Couple non-homeowner (combined)	$766,000	$1,388,000
Illness-separated couple homeowner (combined)	$499,000	$1,324,500
Illness-separated couple non-homeowner (combined)	$766,000	$1,591,500

Pension income test

20 September 2026 - 19 March 2027

Pension is reduced by $0.50 (singles) and $0.25 (each member of a couple) per $1.00 of income over full pension thresholds.

Family situation	For full pension (pf)	Cut-off limit (pf)
Single	Up to $226	$2,701.40
Couple (combined)	Up to $396	$4128.00
Illness-separated couple (combined)	Up to $396	$5,346.80

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Deeming thresholds

1 July 2026 - 30 June 2027

Rate applied below threshold is 1.25% and 3.25% above.

Family situation	Deeming threshold	Max financial asset to receive full pension
Single	$66,800	$221,907
Couple where at least one member receives a pension (combined)	$110,600	$384,861
Non Pensioner couple (each)	$55,300	N/A

Exempt funeral bonds

1 July 2026 - 30 June 2027

Family situation	Amount
Single or for each member of a couple	$16,250

Carer Allowance

1 January – 31 December 2026

Indexed 1 January each year

Family situation	Fortnight	Annual
Caring for someone 16 or older and there is no health care card for the person being cared for	$162.60	$4,227.60
Providing care for a child under 16 with higher needs who has a health care card	$162.60	$4,227.60
Providing care for a child under 16 with lower health needs		Not applicable. Health Care Card for the child

Carer Payment

1 January 2026 - 31 December 2026

Applied to the care receiver	
Income limit	$143,752 p.a.
Asset limit	$886,750

Carer Supplement

Amount is not indexed.

Eligible payments	Annual
Carer Payment, recipients of both Department of Veterans' Affairs Partner Service Pension and Carer Allowance; and recipients of Department of Veterans' Affairs Carer Service Pension.	$600 per eligible payment

Maximum rate of allowances

20 September 2026 - 19 March 2027

JobSeeker Payment, Widow Allowance, Partner Allowance and Sickness Allowance.

Family situation	Fortnight[1]	Annual[2]
Single, 22 or over, no child(ren)	$833.70	$21,676.20
Single, 22 or over, dependent children, primary caregiver[2]	$899.80	$23,394.80
Single, 22 or over, dependent children not primary caregiver	$892.80	$23,212.80
Single, 55 or over, after 9 months on payment[2]	$899.80	$23,394.80
Couple (each)	$763.00	$19,838.00

1. Includes Energy Supplement.
2. includes pharmaceutical allowance.

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Allowance asset test

1 September 2026 -1 January 2027

No payment if applicant's assets exceed above asset thresholds.

Family situation	Asset threshold
Single homeowner	$333,000
Single non-homeowner	$600,000
Couple homeowner (combined)	$499,000
Couple non-homeowner (combined)	$766,000

Allowance income test

20 September 2026 -19 March 2027

Fortnightly income between the lower and upper threshold reduces maximum allowance by 50 cents in the dollar.

Income above upper threshold reduces fortnightly allowance by 60 cents in the dollar.

If you are the primary carer of a child or children under age 16, and earn more than the lower threshold, your fortnightly allowance will be reduced by 40 cents in the dollar.

Family situation	Lower threshold (pf)	Upper threshold (pf)	Cut-off threshold (pf)
Single, 22 or over, no child(ren)	$150	$256	$1,530.17
Single, 22 or over, dependent children under age 16 - primary carer	$150	N/A	$2,356.25
Single, 22 or over, dependent children under age 16 - not primary carer	$150	$256	$1,626.84
Single, 55 or over, after 9 months on payment (including pharmaceutical allowance)	$150	$256	$1,638.50
Couple (each)	$150	$256	$1,414.67

Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC)

20 September 2026 – 19 March 2027

Family situation	Annual income limit
Single	$105,048
Couple (combined)	$168,076
Couple, illness-separated (combined)	$210,096
For each dependant child add	$639.60

Eligibility to the CSHC is determined based on the individual's Adjusted Taxable Income (ATI). ATI is the sum of: taxable income, fringe benefit value, target foreign income, net investment losses, reportable superannuation contributions, deemed income on ABPs (unless grandfathered or the ABP is owned by a partner aged under 60).

Low income health care card (LIHCC)

20 September 2026 – 19 March 2027

Family situation	Weekly income to qualify[1]	Weekly income to lose the card (existing cardholders)[2]
Single, no children	$826	$1,032.50
Couple (combined), no children	$1,410	$1,762.50
Single, one dependent child	$1,410	$1,762.50
Additional amount for each dependent child	$34	$42.50

1. To be eligible for the LIHCC, applicant's average Centrelink income must be below the lower qualifying limit for the eight-week period immediately prior to the application.
2. Once a LIHCC has been issued, income must not exceed the disqualifying limit during the entitlement period.

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