

Government Benefits and Assistance

If you receive any payments from the government, your executor needs to know.

Age Pension. Disability Support Pension. Carer Payment. Veterans' Affairs benefits. NDIS funding. These payments stop when you die, and your executor needs to notify the relevant agencies.

In some cases, payments received after your death need to be paid back. In other cases, there might be final entitlements (like bereavement payments for your spouse).

This section helps your executor know what you're receiving and who to contact.

What government benefits might you receive?

Common government payments in Australia include:

Age Pension. If you're over pension age and meet the income and assets test, you might receive the Age Pension from Centrelink. When you die, your executor should notify Centrelink as soon as possible. Payments received after your date of death generally need to be repaid, though in some cases (like bereavement provisions for a partner) different rules apply, so your executor should confirm the exact position with Centrelink.

Disability Support Pension. For people with a permanent disability who can't work. Same rules as the Age Pension: notify Centrelink, and repay any payments received after death.

Carer Payment or Carer Allowance. If you're caring for someone with a disability or illness. Stops when you die.

Veterans' Affairs benefits. If you served in the military, you might receive a Service Pension, Veterans' Disability Pension, or War Widow/Widower Pension. Your executor needs to notify the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

NDIS funding. If you have a disability and receive funding under the National Disability Insurance Scheme, your executor needs to notify the NDIA (National Disability Insurance Agency).

Family Tax Benefit. If you're receiving Family Tax Benefit for dependent children, this needs to be updated or transferred if your partner will continue caring for the children.

JobSeeker or other income support. If you're receiving unemployment benefits or other income support, these stop when you die.

What about bereavement payments?

When you die, your spouse or partner might be eligible for bereavement payments from Centrelink. These are one-off or short-term payments to help with immediate costs.

Your executor should advise your spouse to contact Centrelink to see what they're entitled to.

What about concession cards?

If you have a Pensioner Concession Card, Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, or Health Care Card, your executor needs to cancel these.

WHY THIS MATTERS

If your executor doesn't notify government agencies promptly, payments will keep being deposited into your bank account. Those payments will need to be repaid, which can be a real hassle to sort out.

On the flip side, if your spouse is entitled to bereavement payments and doesn't know to claim them, they'll miss out.

Write down what you're receiving so your executor knows what to do.

Your Government Benefits and Assistance

Every government payment and card, so your executor can notify the right agencies and stop payments.

CENTRELINK PAYMENTS

*Age Pension, Disability Support, Carer Payment/Allowance, JobSeeker, Family Tax Benefit, etc.
Bereavement helpline: 132 300.*

PAYMENT TYPE(S) RECEIVED	FORTNIGHTLY AMOUNT
CENTRELINK REFERENCE NUMBER (CRN)	DEPOSITED INTO (BANK ACCOUNT)

VETERANS' AFFAIRS (DVA)

Service Pension, Disability Pension, War Widow/Widower Pension, etc.

PAYMENT TYPE(S)	FORTNIGHTLY AMOUNT
DVA FILE NUMBER	DEPOSITED INTO (BANK ACCOUNT)

NDIS

Your executor must notify the NDIA: 1800 800 110.

NDIS NUMBER	PLAN MANAGER / COORDINATOR NAME

Your Government Benefits and Assistance (cont.)

COORDINATOR PHONE

ANNUAL FUNDING AMOUNT

CONCESSION CARDS

These cards must be cancelled when you die.

CARDS HELD

OTHER GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Rent assistance, energy supplement, utilities concessions, council rate rebates, etc.

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE

AMOUNT / BENEFIT

CONTACT AGENCY

NOTES: ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT GOVERNMENT BENEFITS