Australian Government

Do you have a Centrelink debt?

The Australian Government has passed a new law to fix past problems with the way income apportionment debts were calculated and offer a one-off resolution payment of up to $600.

You may be eligible for a one-off income apportionment resolution payment up to $600, if you had a Centrelink debt resulting from employment income for any period between 20 September 2003 and 6 December 2020. This includes where you have already repaid the debt and are no longer receiving social security payments.

What is income apportionment?

Income apportionment was used when a person's payslips didn't line up with their Centrelink reporting period, and didn't show the exact days they worked.

It worked by dividing a person's pay evenly across two or more Centrelink fortnightly reporting periods. This meant debts may have been higher or lower than they should have been.

How do I know if I have an income apportionment debt?

You may have an income apportionment debt now or that you have paid off. These debts are:

- From employment income **not** income from other sources.
- For income support payments like newstart allowance, jobseeker payment and youth allowance, family tax benefit or child care subsidy.
- Old debts relating to payments before 6 December 2020.

You should know:

- If your debt arose because you were earning employment income while receiving a Centrelink payment between 20 September 2003 and 6 December 2020, you may be eligible to apply for the Resolution Scheme.
- You must apply to receive a resolution payment – it is not automatic.
- Applications are open from 30 January 2026 to 29 January 2027, with an additional 12 months available for people experiencing special circumstances.
- Applying for a resolution payment doesn't get rid of your debt. If you have an income apportionment debt:
  - » Services Australia may ask you to start repaying it again.
  - » You can appeal income apportionment affected debts in the same way you can appeal other Centrelink debts.

You can apply for the Income Apportionment Resolution Scheme online or by phone

To apply online, you will need to use your Centrelink online account through myGov or the Express Plus Centrelink mobile app, and follow these steps:

1. Go to the Money You Owe service.
2. Click 'Apply for Resolution Scheme' button.
3. Select the debts you want to be considered for a resolution payment.

If you need help or want to apply over the phone, you can call **1800 560 870**.

For more information go to:

servicesaustralia.gov.au/incomeapportionment