

The Remote Jobs and Economic Development program and your Centrelink payments

The Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED) program is about creating local jobs that communities want, with fair pay and conditions.

If you're a job seeker currently participating in, or eligible for the Community Development Program (CDP) you have an opportunity to change from income support to a job in your community.

How much will I get paid?

Under the new RJED program, you will be paid at the appropriate award rate or the National Minimum Wage (whichever is applicable) plus relevant conditions, such as superannuation and leave.

Rates of pay in awards and agreements will depend on the type of work you're doing and your age, experience and qualifications. Minimum rates of pay usually increase on 1 July each year. Use a calculator on Fair Work Ombudsman's website to check your rate of pay: [calculate.fairwork.gov.au/FindYourAward](https://www.fairwork.gov.au/FindYourAward)

Can I get Centrelink payments if I have a job with the RJED program?

You may still be eligible to receive Centrelink payments if you start a job under the RJED program. You may be able to earn up to \$150 per fortnight before your JobSeeker Payment changes, but it's best to check with Centrelink.

You will need to notify Centrelink within 14 days of starting your job and you will need to report your income (before tax) once you start working.

You can let Centrelink know about a change to your circumstances by using one of these options:

- your Centrelink online account through myGov (if you don't have a myGov account, you can set one up at my.gov.au)
- your Express Plus Centrelink mobile app on your smartphone or tablet (go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/expressplus for more information)
- call the 24-hour Centrelink phone reporting line on **133 276**
- call the 24-hour Centrelink phone self-service line on **136 240** (go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/selfservice for more information)
- call the Centrelink Indigenous Call Centre on Freecall™ **1800 136 380**.

If you don't have access to a self-service option, please call Services Australia. For a list of phone numbers go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/phoneus

You can also access Centrelink services from Agents and Access Points. Find your nearest Agent or Access Point at findus.servicesaustralia.gov.au



Australian Government
National Indigenous
Australians Agency



NIAA

What happens with my housing?

Access to government housing is not dependant on you getting a Centrelink payment. Your access to government housing is based on income test limits and this varies across jurisdictions. The legislation and policies for housing are different depending on where you live. You will need to check with your local Community Housing Provider

Telling Centrelink about other changes in your life

It's also important to let Centrelink know of any changes that happen to you within 14 days.

Changes could be you:

- start a new relationship or separate from you partner
- move house or your rent changes
- start or stop looking after kids.

If you have a partner, you need to report their changes and any money they get because that could change your payment too.

If you don't tell Centrelink, they may pay you too much money and you'll have to pay the money back.

It's best to check with Centrelink because everyone's situation is different.

Your Family Tax Benefit

If you get Family Tax Benefit, you need to let Centrelink know if you or your partner's income changes. This is called updating your family income estimate.

You need to let them know as soon as possible.

If you don't, Centrelink may pay you too much money and you may have to pay back the money.

For more information go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/familyincomeestimate

Your Health Care Card

You can generally keep your Health Care Card for 24 weeks after getting a job.

If your child is getting Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY

If you have a child aged under 22 receiving Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY, you'll need to let Centrelink know your income.

To find out more, search for 'parental income' at servicessaustralia.gov.au

If you pay Child Support

If you're paying child support and the amount of money you get changes, you'll need to talk to Child Support and give them a new estimate.

You can call **131 272** and ask to talk to the Indigenous and Remote Services team to talk about what you need to do.

Child Care Subsidy

Child Care Subsidy helps with the cost of approved childcare. It's paid directly to your childcare service to reduce the fees you pay.

Additional Child Care Subsidy may also be available for some families. This includes:

- grandparents and great grandparents who are primary carers
- families moving from an income support payment to work
- those experiencing temporary financial hardship
- families caring for a child who is vulnerable or at risk.

For more information go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/child-care-subsidy

Your rights and responsibilities at work

The Fair Work Ombudsman is Australia's workplace regulator. They help everyone in Australia follow the laws that makes all workplaces equal and fair. Their website has lots of information, tools and resources to help you get the best start in a new job, including knowing your rights and responsibilities.

Enrol for an online course on starting a new job or read the First Nations guide.

To find out more visit their website fairwork.gov.au/first-nations-people

For more information

Read more about the Remote Jobs and Economic Development program at niaa.gov.au/remote-jobs

Learn more about what you need to tell Centrelink when you get a job at servicessaustralia.gov.au/working

Calculate what you should be getting paid by your employer at calculate.fairwork.gov.au/FindYourAward

There are resources to help First Nations people in the workplace at fairwork.gov.au/first-nations-people



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