

# Who receives JobSeeker, Youth Allowance and other income support?

## Fact sheet

April 2021

### How many people receive JobSeeker?

As at 6 April 2021, there were 1,167,000 people receiving JobSeeker Payment, and 129,000 people receiving Youth Allowance (Other), the unemployment payment for younger people. This totals 1,296,000.<sup>1</sup> This is a 59% increase compared with the number of people receiving these payments before the pandemic.<sup>2</sup>

### Who receives JobSeeker?

As at December 2020:

- 44% of people on JobSeeker were aged 45 and over
- 29% could not work full time because of illness or disability
- 11% care for children, the majority of whom are single mums

### How much is JobSeeker?

- The base rate of JobSeeker is now \$44 a day for a single person. Youth Allowance is even less at \$36 a day.
- The relative poverty line (50% of median income) is around \$65 a day.

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<sup>1</sup>DSS (2021) <https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=2d17956f-8618-48f4-8bb1-de514b71ec7c>

<sup>2</sup> DSS (2019) <https://data.gov.au/data/dataset/dss-payment-demographic-data/resource/0429d083-d8d2-4fff-bc75-f9100e1723ad>

## Who receives supplementary payments?

- Everyone receiving JobSeeker receives the Energy Supplement of \$4.40 a week for a single person. This and the base rate of JobSeeker amounts to just under \$45 a day for a single person.
- The next most common supplementary payment is Rent Assistance, received by 40% of people on JobSeeker.<sup>3</sup> The maximum rate for a single person is \$70 a week, providing you pay more than twice this in rent. A single person on JobSeeker receiving Rent Assistance who pays \$157pw in rent would be left with just \$31 a day to cover everything else. The average rent paid by someone on JobSeeker is \$254pw.<sup>4</sup>
- The third most common supplementary payment is the Pharmaceutical Allowance, received by 38% of people on JobSeeker. It is \$3.10 a week.
- 14% of people on JobSeeker receive Family Tax Benefit to help with the cost of raising children.<sup>5</sup>

## How many jobs are available for someone on JobSeeker?

- Nationally, there are 8 people receiving JobSeeker or Youth Allowance Other for every job<sup>6</sup> available as at February 2021. However, there are 48 people on JobSeeker/Youth Allowance Other for every entry-level vacancy, and 57 people for each entry-level job in regional areas.<sup>7</sup>

## Almost 3 million people lost the Coronavirus Supplement

- Almost 2 million had their incomes cut by \$50 a week from 1 April 2021 because of the abolition of the Coronavirus Supplement. More than one million children were also affected as they live in homes that received the Supplement. Although the base rate of their payments rose by \$25 a week, the Coronavirus Supplement provided an extra \$75 per week, so their incomes were cut when it was removed.
- The majority of people affected by this cut were women (56%), who comprise the vast majority of people receiving Parenting Payment and 47% of people receiving JobSeeker.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> DSS (2020) <https://www.aph.gov.au/api/qon/downloadattachment?attachmentId=c5dfa325-bde0-4d92-8b58-3b26c5e4beeb>

<sup>4</sup> DSS (2020) <https://data.gov.au/data/dataset/dss-payment-demographic-data/resource/0429d083-d8d2-4fff-bc75-f9100e1723ad>

<sup>5</sup> DSS (2020)

<sup>6</sup> Based on internet vacancy data.

<sup>7</sup> Social Policy Research Centre (2021) UNSW

<sup>8</sup> DSS (2020)