

All you wanted to know about the \$20.80 Supplement Payment Fact Sheet

Generally Group-based Work Experience Activities

Background

All job seekers who are placed on a 'Generally Group-based' Work Experience Activity (i.e. a Work for the Dole, Full-Time Work for the Dole, Drought Force, or Green Corps activity) receive a fortnightly \$20.80 supplement payment. The purpose of this payment is to assist job seekers in meeting possible additional costs of participation in these types of activities.

Job seekers who are participating on more than one of these Work Experience Activity types at the same time only receive one supplement payment. For example, a job seeker participating on two Work for the Dole activities, or a Work for the Dole and Green Corps activity, will only receive one \$20.80 supplement payment fortnightly.

Centrelink continues this supplement payment until the expected end date of the job seeker's activity placement. Within this period, Centrelink considers suspensions and exits and will temporarily cease the payment at those times. If Centrelink ceases a supplement payment, they send a letter informing the job seeker that their rate has changed.

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

Background

From 1 October 2011 eligible income support recipients participating in CDEP will have access to a fortnightly \$20.80 supplement payment. The supplement assists job seekers with the cost of participating in CDEP, thus providing a consistent approach for income support recipients participating in CDEP and other job seekers participating in approved activities such as Work for the Dole, Drought Force and Green Corps. CDEP participants who have grandfathered status and receive CDEP wages will not be eligible for the Approved Program of Work Supplement but may be eligible for the CDEP Participant Supplement.

Job seekers who are participating in more than one CDEP activity at the same time are only eligible for one supplement payment of \$20.80 per fortnight.

The supplement is paid by Centrelink once an individual in receipt of an income support payment commences in an approved program. The supplement would cease if the individual has an end date or suspension date recorded against their CDEP activity placement in ESS.

How to ensure your job seeker continues receiving the Supplement Payment

To make sure that the job seeker's supplement payment is not stopped when they are still participating in an activity, you should keep the expected end date for a job seekers' placement up to date (in advance of today's date). The expected end date should reflect, as closely as possible, the length of time you expect the job seeker to remain on the Work Experience Activity placement.

How to Reinstate the Supplement Payment after the Expected End Date has Passed

If Centrelink stops the job seeker's supplement because you did not update the placement's expected end date before the date is passed, but the job seeker is continuing in the activity and should continue receiving the supplement payment, there is a solution.

It is possible to extend the expected end date after the date has passed to reinstate the supplement payment. This date can be extended, provided the job seeker's activity placement has not reached its actual end date and you have not provided an exit reason. If the placement has reached its actual end date and you have entered an exit reason on the ESS, you must create a new placement.

If you are attentive in updating the expected end date on your job seekers' placements, it will make activity placement administration easier in the long-term. The Work Experience Activity Report (EBIW AM003 Work Experience Activity) can be found on EA Reporting (Reports > All Reports > Job Services Australia > Activity > Work Experience Activity) and includes information on your job seekers' expected end dates and the activity types in which they are participating.

Suspensions and the Supplement Payment

Centrelink stops paying a job seeker's \$20.80 supplement payment when he or she is suspended in service. The payment stops for the duration of the suspension to ensure a job seeker is not overpaid their supplement.

Job seekers recommence receiving their \$20.80 supplement payment when the suspension ends if the expected end date of the job seeker's activity placement has not passed. This means that, on being notified (via a Noticeboard message) that a job seeker has come off suspension, you should determine whether the job seeker will go back to the same activity. If the job seeker is returning to the same activity placement they were on before they were suspended, and have not reached their expected end date, you are not required to do anything.

However, if a job seeker is not returning to the same activity, their placement should be end dated immediately to avoid overpayment.

Exits and the Supplement Payment

If a job seeker exits employment services the system automatically ceases the job seeker's \$20.80 supplement payment.

End of Activity Placement and the Supplement Payment

When a job seeker completes their placement on their Work Experience Activity (i.e. their expected and actual end dates have passed) their \$20.80 supplement payment will stop. If, afterwards, the job seeker decides to continue the activity, the supplement payment can only be reinstated by creating a new activity placement.

Where a job seeker participates in more than one activity that pays a supplement payment and they reach the first expected end date but subsequent activities creating eligibility for the payment have not reached their expected end date, the job seeker's supplement will continue.

If the job seeker is absent from the activity for over two weeks

In circumstances where you expect a break of over two weeks in a job seeker's participation in an activity that attracts a supplement payment (except where a job seeker is suspended), you should end date the original activity and create a new activity placement when they recommence to avoid overpayment.