

Queensland Stolen Wages Class Action payments



centrelink

How it affects me

You may get a settlement payment if you're a registered member of the Queensland Stolen Wages Class Action.

We expect the Grant Thornton Stolen Wages Settlement Team will start making these payments in December 2020.

For more information on the Stolen Wages settlement go to stolenwages.com.au

Will it affect my Centrelink payment

The settlement payment doesn't count as income for your Centrelink payment.

But what you do with your settlement payment may affect how much you get in your regular Centrelink payment.



You'll need to report the settlement payment to us.

What I need to do

- 1) When you get your settlement payment, tell us within 14 days.
- 2) If you have changes to your income or assets because of how you spent your settlement payment, tell us within 14 days. This is to make sure we pay you the right amount.

Report changes to my assets

You need to tell us:

- If the total value of your assets increase by \$1,000 or more above what we have recorded for you. For example if you buy a boat or a car.
- If the total value of your financial assets increase by \$2,000 or more above what we have recorded for you. For example if you put your settlement payment into your bank account, buy shares or other managed investments.
- If you give away your income or assets or sell them for less than they're worth.

We'll include the value of these items in your assets test. We may reduce or stop your payment if you go over the asset test limit.



You can find details on our website about what types of assets you need to report. For more information go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/assets

Report changes to my income

You need to tell us if you'll get any ongoing income from your settlement payment. For example if you start a business.

We'll include your business income and assets in the income and assets tests.



You can find more details on our website about what types of income you need to report. For more information go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/income

Family assistance payments

Your settlement payment doesn't affect your Family Tax Benefit or Child Care Subsidy, however any interest earned on the settlement may. This settlement payment isn't taxable and you don't need to include it in your family income estimate.

However, a small portion of the payment (interest earned by the administrators on the Settlement Sum) is taxable income for the 2020/21 tax year. Once you know how much this is, you'll need to update your family income estimate to include this interest only.



You can update your estimate using your Centrelink online account through myGov or on the Express Plus Centrelink mobile app.

Continue over page.




Australian Government
Services Australia


servicesaustralia.gov.au

How I can report changes

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

 your Centrelink online account through myGov

 your Express Plus Centrelink mobile app

 call the Centrelink phone self service reporting line on **133 276**

 call the 24-hour Centrelink self service phone line on **136 240**

 call the Centrelink Indigenous Call Centre on **Freecall™ 1800 136 380**.

If you don't have a myGov account, you can set one up at **my.gov.au**

Use the Express Plus mobile app on your smartphone or tablet. For more information go to **servicesaustralia.gov.au/expressplus**


For more information about our self service options go to **servicesaustralia.gov.au/selfservice**


If you don't have access to a self service option please call us. For a list of our other phone numbers go to **servicesaustralia.gov.au/phoneus**

To keep you and our staff safe, please only visit a service centre if you really have to. We have a list of service centres on our website. Go to **servicesaustralia.gov.au/findus**

Child Support customers


If you're a Child Support customer and you get the settlement payment, you don't need to report a change to your Child Support income because the settlement payment isn't taxable. However, the interest earned on the settlement payment is taxable income for the 2020/21 tax year.

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

 If you have overdue Child Support payments call **131 272** and ask to be transferred to the Indigenous and Remote Services team to talk about your options.

Where I can get help

We offer a free and confidential Financial Information Service (FIS). FIS can help you understand your options when you get a lump sum.

 To speak to a FIS Officer, call **132 300**. Say **Financial Information Service** when we ask why you're calling.

 For more information go to **servicesaustralia.gov.au/fis**

Word list – what this word means

Registered member

Someone who:

- was eligible to claim for money if they weren't paid wages between 1939 and 1972
- registered a claim with Bottoms English Lawyers by 21 November 2019.

This registered member is called a claimant or a registered representative.

Claimant

A person who made a claim to get a settlement payment from the Queensland Stolen Wages class action.

Registered representative

If an eligible claimant has passed away, their spouse or child/children could register for them. The spouse or child is called a registered representative. This is a person who made a claim to get a settlement payment from the Queensland Stolen Wages class action.

Settlement payment

This is a lump sum payment from the Stolen Wages settlement monies.

Disclaimer

This information is intended only as a guide to payments and services. The information is accurate as at November 2020. If you use this publication after that date, please check with us that the details are current.

Calls to '13' numbers from your home phone anywhere in Australia are charged at a fixed rate. This might differ from the local call rate and between phone providers.

Calls to '1800' numbers from your home phone are free. Calls from public and mobile phones may be timed and charged at a higher rate.