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Clean Energy Household Assistance Package

What is it?

There are a number of measures to help households and community organisations manage the impact of the carbon price.

The Commonwealth Government Clean Energy Household Assistance Package will help low and middle income households manage the impact of the carbon price on their costs of living.

The Household Assistance Package will help low and middle income households take action on climate change without unduly bearing any costs. This assistance will mean:

- more than 50 per cent of the carbon price revenue will be used to assist households
- all assistance will be permanent and increase over time
- all low-income households will be eligible for assistance that at least offsets their expected average price impact from the carbon price
- middle-income households will be eligible for assistance that helps them meet their expected average price impact, and
- households with people who have a relevant concession card and face higher essential electricity costs due to a medical condition or disability will be eligible for additional assistance.

Household Assistance Estimator

The [Household Assistance Estimator](#) is a guide to help Australians understand the impact that a carbon price is expected to have on prices of goods and services and the cash assistance that is being provided for Australian households.

Who is eligible?

Pensioners and allowees

Assistance will be provided to recipients of pensions and allowances in two stages.

- Firstly, pensioners and allowees will receive an up-front lump sum in May-June 2012,
- From 20 March 2013, pensioners and current allowees will receive the Clean Energy Supplement with their regular payment. The supplement will be equivalent to a 1.7 per cent increase in the maximum rate of their pension and indexed to CPI.

Families receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A will receive an increase in their payment equivalent to 1.7 per cent of the annual rate of payment. This is worth up to \$110 per child per year.

Families

All families receiving Family Tax Benefit Part B will get an increase to their payment equivalent to 1.7 per cent of the maximum rate. This is worth up to \$69 per family per year.

This assistance will first be delivered through a one-off, tax exempt, lump sum Clean Energy Advance from May-June 2012.

After this, increases will be delivered as a separate Clean Energy Supplement which will be paid as part of families' regular payment cycles.

People in low-income family households who do not receive sufficient assistance as an increase to their payment or through the tax system will also be able to claim a new Low Income Supplement of \$300. The supplement will be claimed through Centrelink.

Further assistance will be made available to middle-income family households with one primary earner to account for the fact they will only benefit from one earner's tax cuts. These families will receive assistance as an increase to their payment through the Single Income Family Supplement of \$300. Families not receiving Family Tax Benefit will be able to claim the supplement through Centrelink.

Essential Medical Equipment Payment

Carbon pricing is expected to impact on the price of electricity. To offset the electricity price impacts on people with these medical needs, the Government will provide an Essential Medical Equipment Payment.

The Essential Medical Equipment Payment will provide assistance of \$140 annually from 1 July 2012. It will be available to eligible Australians who experience additional increases in home energy costs under a carbon price as a result of the medical equipment used in their home to manage their disability or medical condition.

Self-funded retirees

Self-funded retirees who have a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card will receive the same level of assistance as pensioners. Assistance will be provided to Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders in two stages.

Firstly, Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders will receive an up-front lump sum advance in May-June, while their regular payments remain unchanged. This advance provides assistance for the period from the introduction of the price on 1 July 2012 until 20 March 2013 and is tax exempt.

The advance delivers assistance of \$250 for singles and \$190 for each member of a couple.

How do I apply?

Payments will be made through Centrelink, or via Family Tax Benefit A and B.

Who runs it?

The Australian Government.

Contact

For more information on the Clean Energy Household Assistance Package visit the [Clean Energy Future website](#).