Services Australia

Having a baby

Support checklist for families

What to do before your baby is born

Get your Medicare ready

Do you have your own Medicare card?

It's important you have your own Medicare card so your baby can be added once they're born. Make sure you're not on someone else's card, like a parent or guardian's card. If you're not sure, call the Indigenous access line to check.

Get an activity exemption

If you get JobSeeker Payment or Youth Allowance for job seekers, you will be exempt from looking for work activities:

- in the last 6 weeks of your pregnancy
- 6 weeks after the birth of your baby.

You'll need to get a letter from your doctor or midwife showing the due date of your baby and give it to us.

If you need a longer exemption, due to medical reasons, your doctor or midwife can provide a *Centrelink Medical Certificate* (SU415) form or a letter about your medical condition.

Get your own bank account

You need to give us bank account details to get your payment. If you don't have your own bank account, you can go to a bank and ask for one. You'll need to take your identity documents with you when you go to the bank.

If you're not able to get your own bank account, you can set up a payment nominee.

When you set up a payment nominee, you are authorising a person or organisation to:

- get your Centrelink payment in their bank account
- use your Centrelink payment on your behalf
- make or change deductions from your Centrelink payments
- ask us about your Centrelink payments like how much your payment is, why the amount has changed and when it will be paid.

Make sure you have a Tax File Number (TFN)

You need a TFN to get payments from us and if you don't have one, you'll need identification documents to get a TFN. If you have all your identity documents, you can get one by applying online on the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) website.

If you don't have enough identification documents, you can visit your local Services Australia service centre to request a *Indigenous Tax File number application* (NAT1589) form. Someone will need to sign the form for you. They can't be a relative. Alternatively, contact Indigenous ATO line on **131 030**.

Claim Family Tax Benefit (FTB)

FTB helps with the costs of raising children.

You can start your claim for FTB up to 13 weeks before your due date. This makes it easier for you to start getting FTB payments once your baby is born.

To claim you can:

- use your Centrelink online account through myGov
- call the Centrelink Indigenous Call Centre
- visit your local Services Australia service centre, agent or access point.

We'll assess you for Newborn Upfront Payment and Newborn Supplement as part of your FTB claim.

If you take time off work to care for your new baby, you could be eligible for Parental Leave Pay.

What to do after your baby is born

Return your Centrelink Newborn Child Declaration (FA081) form

Before you are discharged from hospital, you'll get a *Centrelink Newborn Child Declaration* (FA081) form. You need to give this back to Centrelink by:

- uploading it using your Centrelink online account through myGov
- taking it to your local Services Australia service centre.

You will also need to complete the 'add newborn child' task in your online account. We'll use your form to finalise your FTB claim and enrol your baby in Medicare.

You can book an appointment at your local service centre by calling the Centrelink Indigenous Call Centre.

Register your baby's birth

After you've given birth to your new baby, the hospital will give you a birth registration form. There's no cost for registering the birth of your newborn. Find out how to register your baby's birth at your local Birth, Deaths and Marriages.

Claim Parenting Payment

You may get Parenting Payment. You can claim after your baby is born. If you currently get Youth Allowance for job seekers or JobSeeker Payment – you'll need to make a claim for Parenting Payment. Log in to your Centrelink online account to claim or call the Indigenous Call centre or Families line to claim over the phone.

Claim child support

Are you a single parent? Child support is getting money from the other parent to help you support your child. You can claim child support online, or by calling our Child Support enquiry line. If you don't do this your FTB payments may be less. Contact the Indigenous Call Centre to discuss.

Child Immunisation can affect your payments

As your child grows, it's important to keep their immunisations (vaccination needles) up to date.

Staying up to date with immunisations helps protect them and your community.

The amount of family assistance money you get can change and some payments will be stopped if your child's immunisations are not up to date.

If you have questions or concerns, speak with your local health service about your child's immunisation or contact us for more information or support.

For more information and support

Go to:

- **servicesaustralia.gov.au/having-baby**
- **servicesaustralia.gov.au/ftb**
- **servicesaustralia.gov.au/what-can-affect-your-family-tax-benefit**
- **servicesaustralia.gov.au/registerbirth**
- **servicesaustralia.gov.au/parentingpayment**

To speak to someone about:

- Centrelink information and advice call the Centrelink Indigenous Call Centre on **1800 136 380**
- payments for families call the Centrelink Families line on **136 150**
- Child Support call the Child Support enquiry line on **131 272**
- Medicare call the Indigenous access line on **1800 556 955**.

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