

Baby Bonus & Maternity Immunisation Allowance



Baby Bonus & Maternity Immunisation Allowance—English

The Baby Bonus and Maternity Immunisation Allowance are two forms of extra assistance when you have a newborn or adopted child.

Baby Bonus – Who can get it?

To get the Baby Bonus, you must:

- provide care to a dependent child;
- meet Australian residence requirements for family assistance purposes;
- have a Tax File Number;
- lodge a claim with the Family Assistance Office within 52 weeks of your baby's birth (including stillbirths), or within 52 weeks of your adopted child coming into your care, and;
- you and/or your partner's combined adjusted taxable income must be less than \$75,000 in the six months following the birth of a child or the child entering your care.

Claim forms are available from the hospital. If you do not have a claim form, you should contact the Family Assistance Office on 13 1202.

If you are the parent of a newborn child, you must apply to register the birth of your child as a condition of receiving the Baby Bonus. This requirement does not apply to parents whose child is stillborn, adopted or born outside Australia.

Birth registration forms are available in the hospital or from the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registry in your state/territory.

Families who adopt a child locally under 16 years of age must lodge a claim within 52 weeks of the child entering their care. Families who adopt a child from overseas under the age of 16 must also lodge within 52 weeks of the child entering their care.

How much can I get?

All rates are current at 1 July 2008.

The Baby Bonus is a payment of \$5000 per child to help with the costs of a newborn or adopted child.

How is the Baby Bonus paid?

The Baby Bonus is paid in 13 fortnightly instalments, from the date the claim is granted. This helps parents and carers with the ongoing costs of a new child over a six-month period.

Maternity Immunisation Allowance – Who can get it?

To get Maternity Immunisation Allowance, you must:

- provide care to a dependent child;
- meet Australian residence requirements for family assistance purposes; **and**
- have a Tax File Number.

Maternity Immunisation Allowance is generally paid as two separate amounts. The first amount will be paid if your child is fully immunised between 18 – 24 months of age. The second amount will be paid if your child is fully immunised between 4 and 5 years of age.

Claims for the first amount must be lodged on or before your child's second birthday. Claims for the second amount must be lodged on or before your child's fifth birthday.

We speak your language ☎ 13 1202

www.familyassist.gov.au



Australian Government
Family Assistance Office

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In most cases, parents will be able to lodge one claim form shortly after their child's birth. This same claim form may be used to process both payments once your child meets eligibility for each payment.

A child is immunised when they are up-to-date with the standard vaccination schedule for their age or are on a suitable catch-up program. For details of the vaccination schedule, ask your doctor or immunisation provider.

Note: You can claim Maternity Immunisation Allowance for children who are adopted from outside Australia and who enter Australia before they are 16 years of age.

Maternity Immunisation Allowance may be paid if an approved immunisation exemption has been obtained for the child.

What is a valid immunisation exemption?

Your child may have an exemption from the immunisation requirements if a recognised immunisation provider (e.g. your doctor) signs a letter or form saying that:

- they have told you about the benefits and risks of immunising your child and you have a conscientious objection to immunising your child
- immunising your child with a particular vaccine is medically contraindicated
- the child has a natural immunity to the disease
- the vaccine is not available

How much can I get?

All rates below are current at 20 March 2009.

The full amount of Maternity Immunisation Allowance is \$245.50.

The first amount of \$122.75 will be made when the child is immunised between 18 and 24 months of age.

The second amount will be slightly higher than \$122.75, due to indexation and will be paid when the child is immunised between 4 and 5 years of age.

For more information:

- Call the Family Assistance Office on **13 1202** between 8.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. (EST) Monday to Friday for information in languages other than English.
- Visit the website at www.familyassist.gov.au
- Visit your nearest Family Assistance Office located in Medicare Australia offices, Centrelink Customer Service Centres and Tax Office shopfronts.