Changes to the Assets Test for Centrelink Aged Pensions from 1 July 2026

Fact Sheet, July 2026

This Fact Sheet covers the thresholds for the Asset Test in regard to the Aged Pension.

Back in the 2015 Federal Budget, there were sweeping reforms to Centrelink. In this fact sheet, we have updated the thresholds to help you understand the current limits to the assessable assets that you can have.

Firstly, let's look and see who these measures apply to.

The Age pension ages have changed in recent times, in order to qualify for an aged pension you must be in the following age ranges. 65 years and 6 months, if you were born between 1 July 1952 and 31 December 1953. 66 years, if you were born between 1 January 1954 and 30 June 1955. 66 years and 6 months if you were born between 1 July 1955 and 31 December 1956. 67 years, if you were born on or after 1 January 1957.If you are over these age ranges and in receipt of a full or part Aged Pension, then you need to be aware that for every $1,000 owned above the assets test free amount your pension will be reduced by $3 per fortnight reduction for every $1,000 of assets above the threshold (equivalent to 7.8% per year).

The thresholds that apply are dependent on whether you are single or a couple, own your own home or not, and are either in receipt of a full or part pension.

From 1 July 2026, for those on full pensions and are single homeowners, the pension starts reducing when assets reach $321,500. For couples it is when their assets reach $481,500. For non-homeowners, it is $579,500 for a single person and $739,500 for a couple.

For single homeowners with a part pension from 1 July 2026, the pension cuts out when assets exceed $722,000 and for a couple it stops when assets exceed $1,085,000. For non-homeowners who are single, the pension ceases when assets exceed $980,000, and for couples when assets exceed
$1,343,000.

What assets are included in the threshold?

The market value of most of your assets is taken into account when calculating your Age Pension. This includes, but is not limited to, things such as:

- Property (excluding your home)
- Motor vehicles, boats and caravans
- Financial investments
- Superannuation if you're over Age Pension age
- Business assets
- Household contents and personal effects.

For some superannuation trustees, there will be little or no effect at all. They had always planned that their Self-Managed Superannuation Fund (SMSF) would provide them with their income stream in retirement. For other trustees these changes may impact on their spending patterns and the quality of life they are looking at in retirement.

Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

For pensioners who lost their Age Pension entitlement at 1 January 2017 as a result of the changes to the asset tests at that date, you may have been issued with a non-income tested health card. However, if applying for a health card since 2017, you must have reached pension age, do not qualify for payments from Centrelink or Veteran's Affairs and you must meet an income test. To pass the income test, you must not earn more than $101,105 if you are single and $168,768 a year for couples.

How can we help?

If you are concerned that the Government's changes to the Aged Pension have had an effect on you, please contact your local Accru advisor to discuss your particular requirements in more detail.

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