



Am I entitled to the Age Pension?

Centrelink's Age Pension provides income support and access to a range of concessions for eligible older Australians. A number of factors will determine your eligibility and potential entitlement including your age, your level of assets and income.

Who does this suit?

This information will be helpful if you:

- meet the qualifying age
- are interested in how the entitlement is determined.

It works like this:

- Your Age Pension entitlement is determined by two separate tests:
 1. Assets Test and
 2. Income means test.
- Income and assets must be below set limits to qualify.
- Your entitlement is based on the lower amount resulting from the two tests.

Income test

- An individual may receive the full Age Pension under the income test if their fortnightly income is below a certain limit.
- If their income is in excess of this limit, their pension entitlement will reduce by \$0.50 for each \$1 of income they have over the lower limit until such time as the entitlement reduces to \$0.

Assets test

- Like with the income test, an individual may receive the full Age Pension under the assets test if their assets are below a certain limit. If their assets exceed this limit, their pension entitlement reduces by \$3.00 for every \$1,000 of excess assets.

Other factors

- Other factors which affect an individual's Age Pension entitlement include whether they are a homeowner, if they are single or a member of a couple, where and how they hold their assets, and where they derive their income. For example, there are different test thresholds depending on an individual's homeowner status or if they are single or a member of a couple. If they are a member of a couple, their combined assets and income are assessed when determining their eligibility for the Age Pension.

Age Pension Qualifying Age

If you were born	You qualify for the Age Pension at age
On or before 30 June 1952	65 years
1 July 1952 to 31 December 1953	65 years and 6 months
1 January 1954 to 30 June 1955	66 years
1 July 1955 to 31 December 1956	66 years and 6 months
On or after 1 January 1957	67 years



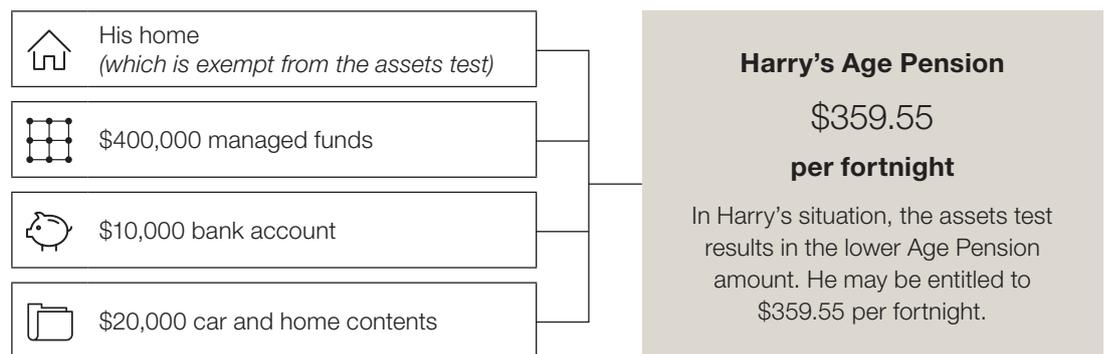
Benefits

Access a range of concessions for eligible older Australians.

Examples

Harry, age 67

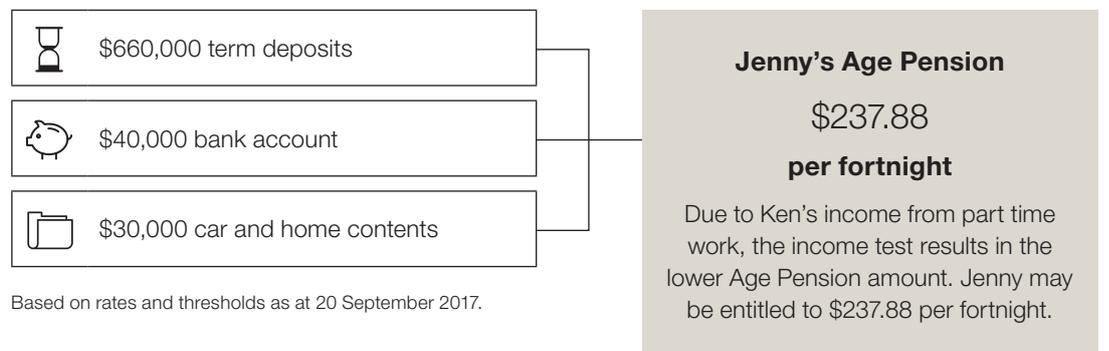
Harry is single, his assets consist of:



Based on rates and thresholds as at 20 September 2017.

Jenny, age 66 & Ken, age 64

Jenny and Ken are a married couple. Only Jenny is eligible for the Age Pension as Ken is yet to reach Age Pension age. Ken works part time and earns \$1,200 per fortnight, and they are non-homeowners. Their assets consist of:



Based on rates and thresholds as at 20 September 2017.



Top Tip

Strategies to increase Age Pension

The ability to increase the Age Pension will always come down to the particulars of an individual's circumstances, however there may be ways to increase entitlements, such as:

- Consider putting some money in a spouse's superannuation fund if they are under Age Pension age as this won't be counted as an asset until your spouse reaches Age Pension age,
- Spending funds on upgrading or renovating a home because your home doesn't count as an asset,
- Purchasing a home in which to live if currently a non-homeowner because your home doesn't count as an asset,
- Taking out a funeral bond or pre-paying funeral expenses as these are an exempt asset,
- Giving money or assets to children or other people, up to certain allowed limits,
- Investing in an annuity that receives concessional Centrelink treatment,
- If an individual or their partner is entering aged care, paying the accommodation payment as a lump sum as this does not count as an asset.

Take note



It's important to remember that everyone's situation is different and strategies that work for some, may not work for others.

Need help



For more information on how to determine your Centrelink entitlements, please speak to your financial adviser.

Disclaimer

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