

Finance Fact Sheet

Brisbane Area



This Factsheet is intended as a guide only. It was developed to assist carers to navigate the maze of services available. It provides details of services in your area and explanations of terms used and eligibility criteria where relevant. Every effort was made at the time of printing to ensure the accuracy of information.

Carer Payment.

This is an income support payment for carers who, because of the demands of their caring role are unable to undertake substantial paid employment. It is paid to full-time carers or parents of children or adults with a severe disability; severe medical condition or who are frail aged. An income and assets test will be used to work out how much benefit you will receive. The fortnightly Carer Payment is \$766 for a single person and \$577.40 each for a couple.

Carer Allowance.

This is a supplementary payment that may be available to you if you are a parent or carer who provides daily care and attention for an adult or child with a disability, severe medical condition or for someone who is frail aged. Carer Allowance is not income and assets tested and may be paid in addition to wages or other payments such as Carer Payment and Age Pension. Carer Allowance is \$118.20 per fortnight. Centrelink can lend a one-off payment of \$500 a year. Repayments are automatically deducted fortnightly from your Centrelink benefit. Centrelink offers a free direct bill paying service. For more information call the disability, sickness and carers line 13 27 17

Concessions.

If you hold a Pensioner Concession Card, Queensland Government Seniors Card, Repatriation Health Card (Gold) or Health Care Card, concessions can help you reduce the cost of your regular household bills.

More information can be obtained by phoning 13 74 68

Carer Business Discount Card.

With the support of the business community, carers can use their Carer Business Discount Card to obtain discounts and incentives from participating businesses.

More information can be obtained by phoning 13 74 68

Free Tax Help available for low income earners.

Do you earn under \$40 000 a year and have simple tax affairs? You may be eligible for the Tax Office free Tax Help service. To find out whether you are eligible or where the nearest Tax Help centre is located phone the Taxation Office on 13 28 61

Financial Counselling.

If you need a financial counsellor call the Financial Counsellor Association of Queensland (FCAQ) on 1800 007 007 9:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday.

NILS (No Interest Loans Scheme)

You may be eligible if you are a carer living on low income and in possession of a Health Care Card. No Interest Loans are generally for the purchase of essential household items such as a fridge, washing machine, TV, bed or clothes dryer.

For more information contact Carers Queensland on 1800 242 636
St Vincent De Paul also has a No Interest Loans Scheme 3010 1029

Concession Postage Stamps

Some carers may be eligible for concession on postage stamps. Concession postage forms are available through Australia Post. Once the form has been filled and submitted, it will be processed and Australia Post will issue a card with 5 free stamps. The card entitles the holder to purchase stamps at a discounted rate and may appear different to usual stamps. Forms and information is available through Australia Post Office shops.

Queensland Department of Housing.

If you are on a low income you may be eligible for Public Housing (a waiting period generally applies) and or a bond loan, which is an interest free loan for those unable to pay a full rental bond.

Bayside area 3362 9100

Brisbane Central area 3872 0320

Brisbane North area 3896 9900

Brisbane South area 3405 5300

Brisbane South West area 3362 9200

Logan area 3884 9800

Taxi Subsidy Scheme.

The Taxi Subsidy Scheme is an initiative which aims to improve the mobility of persons with severe disabilities. To be eligible for membership of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme you must be a permanent resident of Queensland and fully meet one of the eligibility criteria.

For more information phone the Taxi Subsidy Unit on 1300 134 755

About Carers Queensland

Carers Queensland Inc. is the state wide peak body dedicated to improving the lives of all unpaid and family carers. Carers Queensland provides information, support and services, researches and advocates for carers' needs to government and promotes awareness of carers within the community. There are approximately 500,000 unpaid carers in Queensland.

Learn more about Carers Queensland at www.carersqld.asn.au