



RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND

Rural Hardship Support

Farm Household Allowance (FHA)

(14 August 2018)

FHA is a fortnightly income support payment for eligible farming families in financial hardship. Payments **up to \$25,625.60 per annum, per couple or \$15,350.40 per annum for singles** are available for up to four years. *The payment is administered by the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS, formerly known as Centrelink).*

Other Benefits

In addition to the basic rates of payment, Farm Household Allowance recipients may be entitled to a range of ancillary benefits, including:

- Lump-sum payments up to \$12,000 (couples) and \$7,200 (Single households)
- 'Activity Supplement' up to \$4,000 for each recipient
- Health Care Card

Eligibility

You must be a commercial farmer (or a farmer's partner), satisfy income and assets tests, meet residence requirements, and be willing to engage in activities aimed at improving your Business' financial situation.

Assets Test

- *Net farm assets must not exceed \$2.55 million (An increased limit of \$5M will apply to claims lodged during the period 1/11/2018 – 30/6/2019)*
- *Non-farm assets limits are:*
 - Single - \$258,500 (homeowner) and \$465,500 (non-homeowner)
 - Couples combined - \$387,500 (homeowners) and \$594,500 (non-homeowners)

Income Test

Income *fortnightly* 'cut-out points' (farm and off-farm income) are *generally*:

- Single \$1053.34
- Couples (combined) \$1927 per fortnight.

These limits may be higher depending on individual circumstances. Some off-farm income may also be set aside in specific circumstances.

We urge you not to self-assess. Contact a Rural Financial Counsellor to find out more information, establish eligibility and assist you to apply.

Further information on FHA can be found at:

www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/farm-household-allowance

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(Supported by Australian and Queensland Governments)