



RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND

Rural Hardship Support

Farm Household Allowance (FHA)

(20 September 2019)

FHA is a fortnightly income support payment for eligible farming families in financial hardship. Payments **up to \$26,244.40 per annum, per couple or \$15,722.20 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 can access an activity supplement which is a maximum amount of \$4,000. This supplement is made available to recipients to undertake approved activities listed in their Financial Improvement Agreement.
- 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 \$5 million
- Non-farm assets limits are:
 - Single - \$263,250 (homeowner) and \$473,750 (non-homeowner)
 - Couples combined - \$394,500 (homeowners) and \$605,000 (non-homeowners)

Income Test

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

- Single \$1075.34
- Couples (combined) \$1966.68 per fortnight.

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

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

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