



## RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND

### Rural Hardship Support

## Farm Household Allowance (FHA)

(16 December, 2020)

FHA is a fortnightly income support payment for eligible farming families in financial hardship. Payments **up to \$26,561.60/annum, per couple or \$15,912.00/annum for singles** are available for up to four years. This is currently supplemented by an additional \$250/person each fortnight due to COVID-19 (available until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, amount will reduce to \$150/person each fortnight as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021). *The payment is administered by the Australian Government Department – Services Australia (formerly Dept of Human Services, aka Centrelink).* The payment is available to eligible farming families four years in every 10 years.

### 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 \$10,000. 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 assets must not exceed \$5.5 million*

### Income Test

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

- Single \$1,257.50
- Couples (combined) \$2,329 per fortnight.
- This is no longer on a sliding scale

*These limits may be higher depending on individual circumstances. Recipients can offset up to \$100,000 of income that is not related to the farm enterprise, dependent on the amount of the farm loss.*

### Lump Sum Payment

FHA recipients who exhaust their full four years of payment on any day between 1 July, 2019 and 30 June, 2020 will automatically receive a one-off lump sum of \$13,000 per couple or \$7,500 for a single recipient.

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/farm-household-allowance>

### Rural Financial Counselling Service - Southern Queensland

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**Gympie** 0428 755 708

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**Miles/Chinchilla** 0491 259 861

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