

Welfare to Work Exemption Certificate

On 1 July 2006 the Federal Government introduced Welfare to Work reforms. These reforms have had an impact on carers receiving the Commonwealth Parenting Payment.

Carers receiving the Parenting Payment are required to meet work participation requirements which includes the requirement to seek work of up to 15 hours a week once the youngest child in their care turns six or seven – depending on the type of payment.

Each year Community Services centrally organises a mail out of Welfare to Work exemption certificates to authorised carers. This certificate assists carers to seek exemption from work participation requirements. The certificate is not to be used for any other purpose.

The maximum period of exemption that can be granted is 12 months, however, Centrelink has specific guidelines around granting exemptions and it may not be appropriate to grant an exemption for this period to all carers. Also, only one carer in a couple may be eligible for an exemption regarding one child.

Newly authorised carers who didn't receive their certificate in the mail out, have lost their certificate or need assistance with it, should contact their local Community Services Centre (CSC). **Managers Casework are able to issue an exemption certificate to eligible carers outside the mail out.**

Non-government agency carers need to request their exemption certificate from their respective foster care agencies.

What do I need to do?

Let your local CSC know if you change your name or address details or you may not receive your certificate in the mail out.

Contact Centrelink and use the certificate to apply for an exemption if the work participation requirements apply to you. If they don't, throw the certificate away because it can't be used for any other purpose or by any other person.

If your approval to be a carer is terminated or withdrawn (for any reason), you should notify Centrelink immediately as this may affect your eligibility for an exemption. Failure to do so may result in penalties imposed by the Commonwealth.

For more information about the Welfare to Work reforms and work participation requirements please contact your local Centrelink office or visit www.centrelink.gov.au.

For more information on the exemption certificate please contact your local CSC or visit Community Services website www.community.nsw.gov.au for a list of phone and fax numbers and addresses for CSCs across the state.

Interpreter services

If you have difficulty understanding English, contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450. TIS will telephone Centrelink for you at no cost.

Hearing impairment

If you are hearing impaired, contact the TTY Service on 1800 628 310.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on **Welfare to Work Exemption Certificate**, please contact your local Community Services Centre or visit www.community.nsw.gov.au.

For more information about the Welfare to Work Reforms you can:

1. Visit your local Centrelink office
2. Go to Centrelink's website www.centrelink.gov.au



Human Services
Community Services

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