

Title: DHSTV October 2016

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This month; changes to the pension assets test, why you need to have your bank details registered with Medicare and changes to Parental Leave Pay and Dad and Partner pay.

G'day I'm Hank Jongen, here to tell you what's happening with the department in October.

On the 1st of January 2017, there will be changes to the assets test we use to calculate pensions. The rebalance of the assets test may affect your payment.

The assets test free area is increasing. This means that if the sum of your assets falls below the amount in the test free area, your payment won't be affected. The new assets test free areas will be:

- \$250,000 for a single homeowner
- \$375,000 for a homeowner couple
- \$450,000 for a single non-homeowner, and
- \$575,000 for a non-homeowner couple.

If you do go over the asset free area amount, your pension will reduce by \$3 every fortnight for every \$1000 you own over the asset free area.

It's important to know that your family home is exempt from the assets test.

The majority of pensioners won't be affected by the new assets test rules at all – they only affect those who have significant assets and collect a part pension. If this is you, we'll write to you and explain how you'll be affected and what you need to do, so you won't need to call. You can also find all the information about this on our website.

In July, we stopped delivering Medicare benefit payments by cheque. This means, you need to have your bank account details registered with Medicare to get your benefit after you visit the doctors.

If you've recently been to the doctors, paid for your appointment and haven't registered your bank details, we may owe you money!

Once you have registered, your benefit is paid directly into your bank account, whether you claim at the doctor's office, online or in person.

You can register your bank details easily online, with your Medicare online account through myGov.

If your child is born or you have adopted after the first of this month there are some changes to Parental Leave Pay, and Dad and Partner Pay that may apply to you.

If you receive either of these payments and you have a partner who receives an income support payment, your Parental Leave Pay or Dad and Partner Pay will count as income when we assess them for their payment.

This means that while you're receiving Parental Leave Pay or Dad and Partner pay you, or your partner's income support payment, may be affected.

You don't need to do anything though, we'll automatically take into account these changes when we assess your payment.

Thanks for watching, as always, please like or follow us and subscribe to our channel to keep up to date.

I'll see you next month. Goodbye for now.

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