

September 2018 Update DHSTV transcript

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This month: Farm Household Allowance supplements, Parental income test reassessment for students and Express Plus mobile app updates.

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

Firstly, some important information for farmers.

The Government recently announced a range of measures for farmers who've been adversely affected by drought.

This includes the introduction of two supplement payments for people getting Farm Household Allowance.

They'll be paid from September 2018 and March 2019. Couples who both get Farm Household Allowance will receive up to an additional \$12,000 – and single households will receive up to \$7,200.

If you already get Farm Household Allowance, you don't need to do anything. The supplement payments will be paid to you automatically.

If you're not getting Farm Household Allowance and you think you're eligible – it's vital that you lodge your first claim by the first of December 2018, to receive the first supplement payment.

Once your claim is granted, any supplement payments you're entitled to will then be paid to you automatically.

Remember, the easiest way to claim Farm Household Allowance is online – by visiting our website at the link below.

A Rural Financial Counsellor can help you apply for Farm Household Allowance. You can contact your local financial counsellor on 1800 686 175.

For more information, you can also call the Farmer Assistance Hotline on 132 316.

If you're dependent and getting Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY, we might ask you for your parents' or guardians' income details very soon. This is called the Annual Parental Income Test reassessment.

We'll be sending a letter in September or early October detailing all the information we need and what you need to do.

You'll be able to provide the details we need online, using a number of self-service options.

Simply search for 'Advise Parental Income' on our website to find out more.

It's important to provide the information required by the due date in the letter – otherwise your payment might stop.

If you don't get a letter, that means we've already got all the information we need and you don't need to do anything.

Finally, if you like doing your business with us on the go, you might have noticed that we've recently updated our Express Plus Centrelink mobile app.

We're always looking for ways to improve our online services and we've recently updated the app's home screen, so it's now much easier to navigate.

The app is also personalised just for you. It shows your next and last payments, your appointments and your most frequently used options.

If you don't have the app already, I'd encourage you to download it today. It's free from the App Store and Google Play.

If you already have the app, you can update your current version on your device now.

Thanks for tuning in, and don't forget to like or follow us on social media and subscribe to our YouTube channel to keep up to date.

See you next month!

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