

DHSTV May 2019 Transcript

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This month: Privacy Awareness Week, updating your family income estimate and changes to the Work Bonus.

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

Privacy Awareness Week runs from the 12th to the 18th of May.

And it's timely for us to remind you of your privacy rights. The privacy policy on our website explains how we collect and handle your personal information.

It also tells you how you can access or correct your personal information.

There are things you can do to protect your privacy—such as keeping your details up to date, protecting your passwords, being careful with what you share on social media and being aware of scams.

Don't be afraid to ask why someone needs your personal information, or to ask how your information will be protected.

We're approaching the start of the new financial year.

That means it's time to update your family income estimate for the 2019-20 financial year.

We use your family income estimate to work out how much Family Tax Benefit and Child Care Subsidy you're entitled to.

Having an accurate estimate is important because it helps you avoid being over or underpaid.

At the end of the financial year, we'll compare your estimate with your actual income.

If you underestimate your income, we may pay you too much. And you'll owe us money.

If you overestimate your income, we may pay you a top up.

The easiest way to update your family income estimate is using your Centrelink online account or a smartphone app.

The Work Bonus is changing from 1 July this year.

If you're of Age Pension age and receive an eligible pension, Work Bonus allows you to earn more income each fortnight, before it starts to reduce your payment under the income test.

From July, you can earn up to \$300 a fortnight, before it affects your pension.

If you earn less than that, your left-over Work Bonus is added to your balance and you can use it to offset any higher earnings later.

The maximum balance you can accrue will rise to \$7,800.

If you receive income as an employee, you don't need to do anything. The Work Bonus will be automatically applied to your income.

Self-employed pensioners may now be eligible to access Work Bonus, if they meet certain criteria.

If you have income from self-employment we'll send you a letter with more information.

Thanks for watching, and don't forget to like or follow us on social media and subscribe to our YouTube channel to keep up to date. I'll see you next month!