

Clients with no income

This fact sheet provides information for people who have no income but are in need of housing assistance.

Assessing clients with no income

If you or a household member have no income, you will be deemed to be receiving a Centrelink benefit in the majority of cases.

Please check with Housing Connect when your housing needs are assessed.

The reason you or a household member have no income may be because of:

- Australian Government policies, such as statutory income recipients who go overseas (those in receipt of a benefit)
- client inaction, eg clients who are entitled to receive a benefit they do not claim
- clients who are under migrant sponsorship agreements, such as Assurance of Support.

If you have a preclusion period with Centrelink because you have been terminated from employment or are serving a “liquid assets waiting period”, then your income will be deemed to be the Centrelink income that you would otherwise be entitled to, such as JobSeeker.

If you are excluded from Centrelink benefits, your income will be deemed as if you were receiving the benefit you would otherwise be entitled to. This will occur when the preclusion period is 12 months or less.

If you or a household member are on a reduced income because you have ‘breached’ Centrelink requirements or if you are repaying a Centrelink debt, your full income will be deemed as the full entitlement.

There are some cases where it is not appropriate to deem an income, and in some of these cases clients will not be eligible for housing assistance.

Clients not eligible for housing assistance include:

- clients who are under migrant sponsorship agreements (eg Assurance of Support)
- clients subject to a two-year waiting period for Centrelink benefits (eg New Zealanders).

If you are unsure whether this applies to you, please check with:

- The Australian Department of Home Affairs – www.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-and-support/contact-us
- Centrelink – www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/contact-us/phone-us

More information

For more details, please call Housing Connect on 1800 800 588 or email housingconnect@anglicare-tas.org.au