

## July 2018 Update DHSTV transcript

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This month: changes to job seeker requirements and compliance rules and balancing family payments at the end of the financial year.

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

It's the start of a new financial year, which means we're busy balancing your family payments for the 2017 - 18 financial year, to make sure you've been paid the right amount.

To do this, we compare your actual income to the income estimate you've given us. To confirm your actual income, we'll ask you to either lodge a tax return, or let us know that you don't need to.

If you don't need to lodge a tax return, let us know using your Centrelink online account via myGov, or through the app. Your information will have been pre-filled in the non-lodgement service from the third of July, making the update quicker and easier.

It's important you check the pre-filled information, and make sure the income details are accurate. When you do this, you won't need to include any Family Tax Benefit payments in your income details.

If you were single AND received an income support payment for the whole financial year, your payments will be balanced automatically, so you won't need to do anything.

Every family is different, so if you're not sure what you need to do to balance your family assistance payments, you can use the Tax Time Checker on our website to help. You can find this at [humanservices.gov.au/tax-time](http://humanservices.gov.au/tax-time).

From July, there are changes that may affect families receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A or who have a child support assessment with us.

Firstly, If you receive an income support payment and Family Tax Benefit Part A, and your income from employment reduces your income support payment to zero, you'll no longer be exempt from the Family Tax Benefit Part A income test.

If that's the case, you'll need to estimate your family income, and your Family Tax Benefit Part A rate may change. If your child gets a dependent student payment, their rate may also change.

In addition if your child doesn't meet the immunisation and health check requirements your payments may be reduced.

There are also changes that may affect separated families. We're changing the way we determine when to end or suspend a child support agreement, as well as how we can recover a child support overpayment.

The way we use care information in your child support assessment will also change if you don't tell us about a change in circumstances within 28 days.

For more information, head to [humanservices.gov.au/changes-to-family-payments](http://humanservices.gov.au/changes-to-family-payments).

If you have any questions about the changes, you can also ask our Family Update Team on Facebook.

If you're a job seeker in jobactive, Disability Employment Services or ParentsNext, you'll need to know about important changes that started on the first of July.

If you miss an appointment or an activity in your job plan, your payment stops until you talk to your provider and meet this requirement. If you don't provide a good reason, you'll get one demerit on your record.

If you get five demerits in six months, and keep missing your appointments or job plan activities, your fortnightly payments may be reduced, or even cancelled.

To find out more about these new compliance rules, talk to your provider.

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.

I'll see you next month.

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