

Farm Household Allowance (FHA)



About Farm Household Allowance

The Farm Household Allowance (FHA) is a financial assistance service offered by the Australian Government. FHA provides up to four years of support for eligible farming families experiencing financial hardship. The allowance, which is paid fortnightly and totals around \$16,000 a year is designed to help meet basic household needs.

An FHA supplement lump sum payment of up to \$7,200 for single farmers and \$12,000 for farming couples is available in two instalments to eligible farmers receiving FHA between 1 September 2018 and 1 June 2019. To be eligible for the first payment of up to \$3,600 for singles or \$6,000 for couples, farmers must have lodged their forms by December 1, 2018.

To receive the Farm Household Allowance you must meet all of the following:

- be a farmer or partner of a farmer
- be 16 years or older
- contribute labour and capital to an Australian farm,

or are the partner of a farmer who does

- have income and assets below certain amounts
- have had less than 4 years of Farm Household Allowance.

Your farm must have significant commercial purpose. We'll assess this based on all the following:

- the purpose of your farm
- the prospect for profit
- consistency of activity
- whether your farm runs as a business
- the size, scale and permanency of your farm activity.

If you are unsure if you are eligible for the Farm Household Allowance or would like to learn more please visit www.agriculture.gov.au/fha or call the Farmer Assistance Hotline on 132 316.

To apply for the Farm Household Allowance visit www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/farm-household-allowance

Special note:

The FHA originally commenced on 1 July 2014 and formed part of the Commonwealth's contribution to the 2013 Intergovernmental Agreement on National Drought Program Reform. As it has now been in operation for over four years, the Australian Government has decided it is timely to review whether the current settings of the program:

- are reaching the farmers who are in need

- are effective and efficient in meeting the original objectives to provide assistance while assisting farmers to improve long-term financial circumstances
- remain fit for purpose
- contribute to an enduring approach to income support for farmers in hardship, including drought

The Review will make recommendations to Government in the first half of 2019.

Call 1300 305 834 toll free or email droughtcare@ihgroup.com.au