



THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

How to apply for special benefit for low income earners

Norfolk Island Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare, the Hon Vicky Jack MLA, has released details of the special benefit allowance for low income earners, introduced to help offset the increased rate of the Goods and Services Tax which took effect on 1st July 2009.

Mrs Jack said that she had approved the following policy under the *Social Services Act 1980*:

- (a) Single income household with no dependents whose wage is \$428.00 per week or less shall receive a benefit of \$9.76 per week.*
- (b) Sole Parent household with children whose wage is \$850.00 or less per week shall receive a benefit of \$18.97 per week.*
- (c) Dual income household with no dependents whose combined income is \$600.00 per week or less shall receive a combined benefit of \$13.39 per week.*
- (d) Dual income household with dependents whose combined income is \$850.00 per week or less shall receive a combined benefit of \$18.97 per week.*

A person is qualified to receive a low income earners special benefit if the person –

- (a) Is ordinarily resident on the island and is either a Temporary Entry Permit, General Entry Permit or a Resident*
- (b) Is not a recipient of a Social Services benefit from Norfolk Island or any other country.*
- (c) Has attained the age of 16 years and is no longer receiving full time education at a school.*

A person is not qualified to receive or continue to receive a low income earners special benefit if the person –

- (a) Has ceased to live on Norfolk Island after the claim for a benefit was received.*
- (b) Is on leave without pay from his/her employment.*

- (c) *Has a claim, or intends to claim, against a person, under a law or contract, for adequate compensation in respect of his employment, injury or illness and the executive member is satisfied that there is a reasonable likelihood that the compensation will be recovered.*

All payments for a special benefit will be made by direct deposit into a nominated bank account.

For the purposes of this special benefit, where persons are provided with accommodation and food with their employment, the value of that accommodation and food will be deemed to be income.

The Minister said that any person wishing to apply for the low income earners' special benefit should collect an application form from the Social Services office at Kingston or download the form from <http://www.info.gov.nf/adminforms/social%20sec/>

Enquiries about the special benefit for low income earners may be made to Mrs Kim Edward on telephone 22001 extension 119, or by email to kedward@admin.gov.nf

Stephanie V Jack
Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare

8 July 2009