

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Gold Coast Office, - 5th floor
12 Short Street,
Southport Qld 4215

*****Latest News from Veterans' Affairs*****

New DVA Pension Rates:



Pension Category:	Old Rate:	New Rate:
Special Rate (T&PI)	\$798.80	\$816.20
Service Pension (couple)	\$397.70 each	\$408.20 each
(single)	\$476.30	\$488.90
War Widow(er)s	\$501.30	\$513.90
Income Support Supp	\$141.60	\$145.50

*All above payments are fortnightly amounts

Telephone Allowance	\$19.80	\$20.40 per quarter
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***Utilities Allowance will be paid on 29/9/05 along with your Telephone Allowance. On this date your pension will be paid by calculating 7 days at the old rate of pension and 7 days at the new rate.

***A complete list of all new pension rates will be available from
the Southport VAN Office from 20th September***

The WWII 60th Anniversary Commemorative Medallion

Just an update on the progress of the issue of the Commemorative Medallion issued by the Department to mark the 60th Anniversary of the end of WWII: It is expected that over 300, 000 medallions will be issued in total, and such a large undertaking is expected to take several months to complete. Applications already received are expected to be issued to

recipients by November 2005, and eligible veterans or widows are still able to submit applications if they have not already done so.

Invitation: Planning Ahead Forum
Another Reminder!

A morning information Forum **Planning Ahead – What You Need to Know** is to be held on **Tuesday 27th September 2005** at Runaway Bay Junior Leagues Club starting 10.00 am concluding midday. It is planned that guest speakers will include Department of Veterans' Affairs, Public Trustee of Queensland, Gold Coast Carelink and Carer Respite Centre, RSL Care and Centrelink. Time will be set aside for questions and answers. The forum is a joint initiative between the Runaway Bay RSL Sub-Branch and Veterans' Affairs Gold Coast.

Places are filling quickly, so if you wish to attend you will need to RSVP - please contact the Gold Coast VAN on 5630 0203.

Do you know your obligations?

You may have noticed a recent advertising campaign by Centrelink about the need to contact them about any changes to your circumstances. Similarly, people who are paid service pension or income support supplement (ISS) need to tell us about various changes in circumstance in case they affect the payment they receive, or benefits associated with those payments.

The need to tell DVA about these things is commonly called the person's ***obligations***:

Changes to Personal Circumstances

The sorts of things you would need to tell us about within 14 days (28 days if you live overseas or receive remote area allowance) are if:

- you marry or remarry;
- you enter a marriage-like relationship;
- you separate from your partner either because of illness or other reasons;
- you and your partner divorce;
- your partner dies;
- the person for whom you are a trustee or carer dies; or
- you plan to travel overseas for any period.

If you receive ISS because you have a dependent child, or if you receive a child related allowance, you would need to tell us if the child or student:

- leaves your care;
- travels overseas;
- stops being a student;
- starts receiving payments under an education scheme; or
- stops being dependent on you.

Changes to Residential Circumstances

If you own your home (including a caravan, mobile home or houseboat), the sorts of things you would need to tell us about are if:

- you sell your home;
- you start to pay rent for other accommodation;
- you leave your home for any reason to live elsewhere;
- you rent or sub-let all or part of your home;
- you take in boarders or lodgers;
- you transfer the title of your home to someone else; or
- you leave your home for any period exceeding 12 months;

If you live in a retirement village, the sorts of things you would need to tell us about are if:

- you intend leaving the retirement village for more than 12 months;
- you move from one type of accommodation to another within the retirement village (for example, from a self care unit to hostel or nursing home facilities);
- you sign a new agreement or contract in the retirement village; or
- there are any changes to the service fees you pay.

If you pay rent for your accommodation, the sorts of things you would need to tell us about are if:

- the amount of rent you pay changes;
- you stop paying rent;
- you start paying rent to a government housing authority;
- you move into a retirement village or other accommodation;
- you enter respite care; or
- you leave Australia temporarily or permanently.

Changes to Financial Circumstances

- your total income from all sources increases by more than \$2.50 for singles or \$5 for couples per fortnight;
- your assets increase above your prescribed asset amount (you will find this in our last letter to you);
- you give away \$10,000 or more in a financial year or \$30,000 or more in a rolling 5 year period (singles or members of couples). If your pension is assets tested and you give away assets equal to or less than either limit, your pension may increase. It is in your interests to advise us of any gifts in excess of \$500.

Changes in Eligibility

The sorts of things you would need to tell us about are if:

- you receive telephone allowance and stop being a telephone subscriber; or
- you are receiving an invalidity service pension or an invalidity ISS pension and:
 - you start full or part time work; or
 - you increase your hours of work; or
 - your incapacity from the disability alone no longer renders you permanently incapable of work.

If you have any questions about your latest rates of payment, health care entitlements or about any other DVA matters, please don't hesitate to contact our friendly staff at Southport DVA Office.

Don't forget we have **moved to the 5th Floor at 12 Short Street**, and the trip in the elevator is worth it to see our view! ΦΦΦΦΦ

Phone: 07-5630 0203

or

1300 55 1918



We look forward to your visit,
Kathy, Nikki, Pat, Ben & Anne Maree