

## **NORFOLK ISLAND PENSION ENTITLEMENTS SUMMARY**

**(As from Jan 2006)**

### **PENSIONS:**

The Social Services Act 1980 provides for payment of the following benefits.

(All rates refer to each fortnight)

#### **Age Benefit:**

**Rate - Single \$481.60 Married \$401.80 (each) per fortnight**

Payable to residents of Norfolk Island who:

- a) Male and over 65 years or female and over 60 years;
- b) Have resided in Norfolk Island for 10 years immediately before the claim;
- c) Have total income from all sources of less than the threshold –  
Currently \$810.70 per fortnight for a single recipient, and \$684.40 each, for married recipients.

#### **Invalid Benefit:**

**Rate - As for Age**

Payable to residents of Norfolk Island who:

- a) Are permanently blind or permanently incapacitated for work (85% incapacity);
- b) Have been living on Norfolk Island for 5 years immediately prior the claim;
- c) Are not receiving an Age benefit;
- d) Qualifies under the same income test as for the age pensions.

#### **Widowed Person Benefit:**

**Rate - \$481.60**

Payable to a resident of Norfolk Island:

- a) Whose spouse has deceased, and
- b) Who was wholly dependent on the deceased spouse for 3 years or more prior to their death, and
- c) Is living in Norfolk Island on the date of the claim is received, and
- d) Was ordinarily resident for 5 years prior to that date, and
- e) Has custody care and control of 1 or more children;
- f) Who qualifies under the same income tests as for the age pensions.

**Special Benefit:****Rate - Can Not Exceed Age Benefit**

Payable to persons who in the opinion of the executive member:

- a) Are suffering hardship;
- b) Unable to earn sufficient livelihood;
- c) Not qualified to received any other benefit;
- d) Qualifies under the same income tests as for age pensions.

**NOTE:** The above four benefits are income tested and reduce according to the applicants other income.

**Orphans Benefit:****Rate - \$88.80**

A child living in Norfolk Island qualifies for an Orphan benefit if:

- a) Both parents are dead;
- b) One parent is dead and the other parent cannot be located;
- c) One parent is dead or cannot be found and the other parent is an inmate of an institution for the insane or imprisoned.

**Handicapped Children's Benefit:****Rate - \$115.80**

Payable to a person who:

- a) Has been a resident in Norfolk Island for 5 years;
- b) Have
- c) care, custody and control of a handicapped child who requires permanent constant care and attention.

**Supplementary Children's Benefit:****Rate - \$68.50**

Payable to a person who receives an age benefit, invalid benefit or widowed person benefit and has custody, care and control of 1 or more children.

**Long Term Care Benefit:**

A person qualifies for a term care benefit if the person is:

- a) Receiving or qualified to receive a benefit under the Social Services Act 1980 or the Australian Social Security Act 1974, and
- b) Has been in hospital for 90 consecutive days.

A person in receipt of a long-term care benefit has the normal hospital expenses waived and is asked to contribute 80% of their total income, whatever it may be, towards the cost to their accommodation.

**Reduction of Benefit: Age, Invalid, & Widowed Persons Benefit:**

The rate of benefit is reduced if the income of the person receiving the benefit exceeds certain thresholds. Currently these thresholds are as follows:

**Married Persons Benefit:**

- Allowable income, does not reduce benefit \$96.60
- The next \$156.29 income reduces the pension by 50% of the income that falls into this bracket i.e. \$78.15
- The next \$431.51 income reduces the pension by 75% of the income that falls into this bracket i.e. \$323.63
- Once the total income per fortnight exceeds **\$684.40** pension entitlements ceases.

**Single Persons Benefit:**

- Allowable income not reducing benefit \$116.00
- The next \$157.79 income reduces the pension by 50 % of the income that falls in this bracket !e. \$78.90
- The next \$537.11 of income reduces the pension by 75% of income that falls into this bracket i.e. \$402.83
- Once the total other income exceeds **\$810.90** per fortnight pension entitlements ceases

All benefits and thresholds are indexed and have in the past been adjusted by the movement in the Benefit Adjustment Factor each half year.

### **Hospital & Medical Assistance HMA:**

HMA is the name given to the system used to provide free or subsidised medical treatment to:

- a) Persons in receipt of a benefit under the Social Services Act 1980 or
- b) Persons who would be entitled to a benefit under the Social Services Act 1980 if they were not receiving a similar benefit from elsewhere - but also subject to the total income test applicable to Norfolk Pensions - note that the total income test includes their offshore pension.

Assistance is provided at the following rates as determined by the person's total income, and covers: medical; pharmaceutical; dental and optical expenses as well as airfares when essential.

<b>Category</b>			<b>Total Income</b>	<b>Patient to Pay Up To</b>
A	100%	of prescribed expenditure	\$602.00	NIL
B	95%	“ “	\$650.20	\$125.00
C	90%	“ “	\$698.30	\$250.00
D	85%	“ “	\$746.50	\$375.00
E	80%	“ “	\$794.60	\$500.00
F	75%	“ “	\$810.70	\$625.00
G	100%	of expenses not covered by private health insurance.		\$NIL

### **Other Pension related Benefits:**

Pension related benefits are available to those persons who are:

- a) Persons in receipt of a benefit under the Social Services Act 1980 or
- b) Persons who would be entitled to a benefit under the Social Services Act 1980 if they were not receiving a similar benefit from elsewhere - but also subject to the total income test applicable to Norfolk Pensions - note that the total income test includes their offshore pension.

- Exemption from FIL
- Reduction in vehicle registration costs
- Reduction in telephone rental
- Reduction in electricity charges