



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Businessline

Action Required: For information only
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To:

Assistant Secretaries, Client Benefits Division
Directors, Income Support, Client Benefits Division
Assistant Directors, Income Support, Client Benefits Division
Directors, Processing and DHOAS Branch, Client Benefits Division
Assistant Directors, Processing and DHOAS Branch, Client Benefits Division
Incapacity and SRDP Delegates
Income Support Delegates
Client Access and Rehabilitation (VAN)
Client Coordination and Support
Directors, Policy Development Branch VFP
Division Coordinators

For information:

Secretary
Deputy President
Deputy Secretary
First Assistant Secretaries
Deputy Commissioners
Assistant Secretaries

SUBJECT: Increase to the fortnightly rate of the VEA TPI / TTI payments and the MRCA SRDP

Purpose:

To inform staff of the increase to the rate of payments to commence 1 January 2023.

Key Points:

- The Disability Compensation Payment at the Special Rate (commonly known as the TPI Payment) will be increased to \$1,595.66 (excluding Energy Supplement) per fortnight, which is equivalent to an increase of \$38.46 per fortnight, and will take effect 1 January 2023.
- If a TPI Payment recipient has offsets applied to their payment, they will not receive the full payment amount of \$1,617.16 (including Energy Supplement), their new payment amount will be dependent on the offsets applied
- Due to being legislatively linked, the rate of Temporarily Totally Incapacitated (TTI) Payment under the VEA and the rate of Special Rate Disability Pension under the MRCA will also receive an equivalent increase

- The first payment following the increase, on 12 January 2023, will be a pro-rata rate between the old rate and the new rate. The first full payment at the new rate will be paid on 25 January 2023.
- The TPI, TTI and SRDP payments will continue to be regularly reviewed and indexed as per the normal cycles in March and September.
- SRDP recipients may not receive the full increase due to the existing offsets applied in the calculation of the individual's SRDP payment.

Informing all clients who receive the TPI, TTI and SRDP payments:

Letters will be sent in December, to all clients who receive the TPI and TTI payments. Those receiving SRDP payments will have letters sent by the Incapacity Payments Section when the manual recalculation is completed.

Background:

The TPI Payment is paid under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) providing compensation for Australia's most disabled veterans. Veterans who are totally and permanently incapacitated due to eligible service, and are unable to work for more than eight hours per week due their VEA incapacity alone may be eligible for the TPI Payment.

Labor's Plan for a Better Future, which set out the Government's policies for veterans prior to the 2022 election, included a one-off increase of \$1,000 to the annual rate, or \$38.46 per fortnight, to the TPI Payment.

Legislation

The Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Budget Measures) Act 2022 received Royal Assent on 30 November 2022. The increase will take effect on 1 January 2023.

Communication

DVA webpages and CLIK have been updated to reflect these changes.

Q&As have been prepared to assist staff with answering client queries on the upcoming changes to the TPI/TTI and SRDP. These are at **Attachment A**.

ICT Systems

DVA ICT systems have been updated to reflect the change in the TPI and TTI payments. As MRCA SRDP payments are processed manually, the increase is to be processed and managed separately by the SRDP team.



Brian Eastman

Acting Assistant Secretary
Policy Development Branch
Veteran and Family Policy Division

12 December 2022

Attachments:

Attachment A: Q&As
Attachment B: Letter to TPI/TTI recipients

Questions and Answers

Q. When does the increase take effect from?

A. The increase will take effect from 1 January 2023.

Q. How much will I receive?

A. The new rate of the TPI Payment will be \$1,617.16 (including Energy Supplement), an increase of \$38.46 per fortnight. As the 1 January 2023 date falls partway through a payment period, your first payment, on 12 January 2023, will be a pro-rata amount consisting of partly the old rate and partly the new rate. Any offsets already applied to your payment will continue to be applied, resulting in a lower rate of TPI Payment.

SRDP payments are calculated by taking into consideration any offsetting amounts and so each SRDP payment is a unique rate for each client. The SRDP team will calculate your new entitlement.

Q. When will I receive the increase?

A. The first payment will be on 12 January. However, as the 1 January 2023 date falls partway through a payment period, your initial payment will be a pro-rata amount consisting of partly the old rate and partly the new rate. The first full payment will be paid on 25 January 2023. The amount of the payment will depend on any offsets that are included in the calculation of your payment.

Q. Who is eligible?

A. Eligibility provisions have not changed. The increase to the TPI special rate will be available to all clients who are entitled for TPI, TTI or SRDP payments.

Q. Can I get the increase if my claim hasn't been determined yet?

A. Yes, if you are determined eligible for the TPI, TTI or SRDP payment, you will automatically get the increase applied as of 1 January 2023 no matter when your claim is determined. For SRDP payments, the amount of the increase will depend on the offsets applied to the calculation of your payment.

Q. What do I have to do to get the increase?

A. The increase will happen automatically and you do not need to do anything.

Q. What if my SRDP amount is less than the maximum rate?

A. The increase to TPI rate may affect your calculated entitlements depending upon your personal circumstances and entitlements. Your individual SRDP rate will be recalculated and may change. If you currently receive SRDP payments, you will receive a letter detailing the change.

Attachment B



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

<First Name> <Initial> <Last Name>
<CLIENTADDRESS1>
<CLIENTADDRESS2>
<SUBURB> <STATE> <POSTCODE>

XX December 2022

<VFN>

Dear <first name> <last name>,

Increase to TPI and TTI Payments

I am writing to let you know that the Disability Compensation Payment at the Special Rate (also commonly known as the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Payment) and the Temporary Total Incapacity (TTI) Payment, will be increased from 1 January 2023.

As announced in the Budget in October 2022, the TPI Payment and the TTI Payment will increase by \$1,000 per annum. Your fortnightly payments will increase by \$38.46 per fortnight.

As the payment is calculated daily and paid in arrears, the payment on 12 January 2023 will be paid partly at both the old and the new rate. The first full payment at the new rate will be paid on 25 January 2023.

You do not need to do anything. These payments will be automatically increased.

For more information on this payment, go to [dva.gov.au/Special and Intermediate rates](https://dva.gov.au/Special-and-Intermediate-rates) or call 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372).

Yours sincerely,

<DC name>

Deputy Commissioner