

# Sick and carer's pay for casuals and contractors

The Victorian Sick Pay Guarantee supports casual and contract workers in certain occupations with five days a year of sick and carer's pay. So you don't have to choose between a day's pay and your health.

This pilot program is fully funded by the Victorian Government for two years.

## How much will I get paid?

Payments are made at the national minimum wage (\$20.33 per hour as of 1 July 2021). You can claim up to 38 hours per year for a total of \$772.54.

## How long does it take to get paid?

Payments will be processed within five business days of your claim being approved. The payment will be deposited direct into your nominated bank account.

## How many times can I make a claim?

You can claim whenever you're sick or injured or need to care for loved ones. You can claim a minimum of three hours at a time, up to 38 hours per year.

## How do I know if I'm eligible?

Casual and contract workers, including independent contractors and non-employing sole traders, in the following occupations are eligible to apply:

- Hospitality workers
- Food trades and food preparation assistants
- Supermarket workers
- Retail and sales assistants
- Aged and disability care workers
- Cleaners and laundry workers
- Security guards

In addition, workers must:

- Not have access to paid sick and carer's leave entitlements at any job
- Be aged 15 years or older
- Physically work in Victoria
- Have the right to work in Australia
- Work an average of 7.6 hours per week or more in at least one of the occupations listed above.

## Do I have to tell my employer I've made a claim?

No. Employers do not need to be involved in claims for the Victorian Sick Pay Guarantee, except to provide evidence of employment where you cannot provide it yourself.

**Check your eligibility and register now at [vic.gov.au/sickpayguarantee](https://vic.gov.au/sickpayguarantee)**

## Do I have to pay the money back later?

No. The Victorian Sick Pay Guarantee is fully funded by the Victorian Government at no cost to you or your employer.

## Is information about the Sick Pay Guarantee available in my language?

Visit [vic.gov.au/sick-pay-guarantee](https://vic.gov.au/sick-pay-guarantee) to access information about the Sick Pay Guarantee in the following languages:

- Arabic – العربية
- Assyrian – ܐܪܡܝܐ ܚܕܝܬܐ
- Chinese – Traditional – 繁體中文
- Chinese – Simplified – 简体中文
- Dari – دری
- Dinka – Thuɔŋjäŋ
- Greek – Ελληνικά
- Italian – Italiano
- Punjabi – ਪੰਜਾਬੀ
- Sinhalese – සිංහල
- Somali – Soomaali
- Turkish – Türkçe
- Vietnamese – tiếng Việt

You can also call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask for the Victorian Sick Pay Guarantee hotline.

## How do I apply?

For more information and to apply, visit [vic.gov.au/sick-pay-guarantee](https://vic.gov.au/sick-pay-guarantee) or call 1800 979 641. You can also share your experience of insecure work to help us ensure all workers are supported when they're sick or need to care for loved ones.





# Jenny Vouthas

## Mother of two and carer for her elderly Mother and Aunt

**For many years, Jenny Vouthas has been juggling the daily pressures of caring for her family while holding down a casual job.**

Jenny not only prioritises raising her two sons, but she also cares for her elderly Mother and Aunt. As a casual employee Jenny admits there's been many times when she's had to put caring for her family ahead of earning money.

"As a casual worker there are times where I have to choose between work and caring for my family."

"There have been situations where I've had to pick up a sick child from school or take my mother to an appointment when she's not feeling well, and I've had to miss out on a day's pay."

**"There have been situations when I've had to go to work sick. Losing a day's pay, risking my health and my co-workers is a decision I have to make, because there is no other choice."**

"It impacts me greatly because it's stressful, and I feel there's not enough of me to go around at times."

But from March 2022, Victorians in casual and contract work in certain occupations will be able to access five days sick and carer's pay each year.

The Sick Pay Guarantee is a two-year pilot introduced by the Victorian Government. This Australian first initiative is aimed at helping support casual and contract workers when they're ill or injured or need to care for loved ones.

"Five days sick pay for casual workers will mean a lot. It will just take that stress away. Just knowing that you have that back up means you can prioritise your health over a day's pay."

Check your eligibility and register now  
at [vic.gov.au/sickpayguarantee](https://vic.gov.au/sickpayguarantee)

