



Turning 66 this year? Here are our top tips to help you claim your age pension

Finally! You are ready to retire, claim the pension and look forward to ticking off your bucket list adventures. Now we all know that dealing with Government applications are rarely straight forward and you could break a leg getting trying to get through the red tape assault course. However we've got you covered. Here are our 7 top tips to help you get on ahead of your application and get the money you deserve.

1. If you are turning 66 this year, set a date to apply for your age pension application 12 weeks before your birthday. Why? Well the form can be tricky and the application process can take time. By starting in advance, you should address any issues and start receiving your pension payment on time.
2. If you are turning 66 this year, and are concerned you may not be entitled to the Centrelink age pension, check first and find out why. Your circumstances or the criteria may change and you want to be ready to apply as soon as you become eligible.
3. If you are turning 66 this year, and are definitely not eligible for the Centrelink age pension, all is not lost. You can still apply for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card. This card is means-tested based on your income, and you could save more than \$2,500 a year on healthcare costs.
4. Do continue to check your eligibility for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card. Return on investments and changes in deeming rates mean that your eligibility may have changed.
5. If you are receiving a part pension, regularly notify Centrelink of your most up-to-date asset valuations. A change in assets of as little as \$1,000 can mean an extra \$78 per year in age pension payments! Update the value of your vehicles and household contents, savings etc.
6. Once you receive your age Pension Concession Card, make sure you apply for these five entitlements:
 - Gas Rebate
 - Electricity Rebate
 - Water Rebate
 - Council Rate Discount
 - Driver's License and Registration Concession

Always keep searching for entitlements, concessions, rebates, programmes to check your eligibility

7. If you are 66 or over and still working, don't assume the Centrelink age pension is irrelevant. Even if you have limited savings and a low-income job, there is still a potential benefit and we can help.

Our Retirement Specialists can help create, grow and manage a diverse, risk-appropriate retirement fund for you. Call us now on 08 9445 2955 or email admin@sagefg.com

What do you want out of retirement?