



How do I apply for FEG assistance?

This fact sheet provides information about how to lodge a claim for assistance under the Fair Entitlements Guarantee (FEG) and the types of supporting documentation that may assist the department to decide your claim.

Making a claim

If you think you may be eligible for FEG assistance you should complete and lodge a FEG claim form.

For more information about making a claim you may wish to refer to the legislation under which FEG is administered, the *Fair Entitlements Guarantee Act 2012* (the FEG Act). A copy of the FEG Act is available at www.comlaw.gov.au.

Information about FEG eligibility requirements is also available on the *Eligibility for FEG assistance* fact sheet.

Online claim forms

Online lodgement is the easy way to make a claim. Just register for FEG Online Services to complete and lodge your form. To register go to www.employment.gov.au/FEGonline.

Using FEG Online Services means that we will receive your claim within 24 hours after it is submitted. FEG Online Services also allows you to upload and submit supporting documentation. For more information about how to lodge your claim online please refer to the *How do I access FEG Online Services* fact sheet.

If you are unable to lodge an online claim form, you can submit a paper based form. Copies are available from the FEG website or by contacting the FEG Hotline. Paper based claim forms must be lodged by:

- Sending it to:
Employee Entitlements Branch
Department of Employment
GPO Box 9880
CANBERRA ACT 2601
- Faxing it to 02 6276 8717 or
- Emailing it to FEG@deewr.gov.au.

How long do I have to make a claim?

It is important that you lodge your claim form as soon as possible. Strict time limits apply under FEG. To make an effective claim, you must lodge a FEG claim form and include all mandatory information and documentation. Your claim must also be made:

- no more than 12 months after the end of your employment or the date of the insolvency event (whichever is later) and
- before the discharge of your former employer's bankruptcy (if you employer was a bankrupt).

In order for the department to assess a claim for FEG assistance, the claim needs to be an 'effective' claim under the FEG Act. If your claim is not made within the timeframe, or does not include all required information and mandatory documentation, it will not be effective and you will not be eligible for FEG assistance.

*For the purposes of the FEG Act, the date of liquidation or bankruptcy is defined as an insolvency event (see s. 5 of the FEG Act).

Completing your claim form

To help us decide if you are eligible for FEG assistance and, if so, to work out the amount of assistance you are eligible for, you should provide us with as much information as possible.

In order for your claim to be effective you must answer all questions marked with an asterisk (*). You must also provide us with supporting documentation, some of which is mandatory, as indicated on the claim form. If you don't provide mandatory information and documentation this will delay the processing of your claim.

Mandatory and Supporting documentation

It is in your interest to provide us with any supporting documentation that may assist us in deciding your claim. The provision of some documents is mandatory.

Providing supporting documentation may reduce unnecessary delays in the event that the insolvency practitioner is unable to confirm your outstanding employment entitlements.

Mandatory documents

The provision of documentary evidence of your residency or citizenship status at the time your employment ended is mandatory (see s.10 of the FEG Act). The copies of documents that are sent with your claim must be certified as true copies of the original documents.

Acceptable evidence of your citizenship or residency status includes a copy of at least one of the following categories of documents that has been certified as a 'true copy' of the original document by a person authorised to do so:

- an Australian Passport issued prior to the end of your employment (or that indicates you were born in Australia)
- a full Australian birth certificate
- an Australian citizenship certificate issued prior to the end of your employment
- an appropriate Australian visa (i.e. a current visa that allows you to live in Australia indefinitely) issued prior to the end of your employment which may be recorded in your passport
- a certificate of evidence of resident status issued by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection prior to the end of your employment (or confirming from what date you held resident status)
- where appropriate, for the purpose of proving you hold a special category visa, a New Zealand passport.

Please note that your driver's licence is not acceptable evidence to show you are an Australian citizen or the holder of a permanent or special category visa.

The information contained in this fact sheet is of a general nature and explains, in summary form, the intended operation of the *Fair Entitlements Guarantee Act 2012* - it is not legal advice. Where necessary, you should seek your own independent legal advice relevant to your particular circumstances. The Commonwealth is not liable for any loss resulting from any action taken or reliance made by you on the information contained in this factsheet

Who can certify that a document is a true copy of the original?

Persons authorised to certify documents include: a Justice of the Peace, Medical Practitioner, Pharmacist, Police Officer and bank officer with more than 5 years service. See the *How do I certify documents?* fact sheet for more details.

Other supporting documents

The list below includes examples of the other types of documents that may help us to assess your claim:

- signed employment contract or letter of appointment
- payslips
- PAYG payment summaries
- bank statements for the 13 weeks prior to the initial appointment of the insolvency practitioner (or if your employment ended before the appointment of the insolvency practitioner, bank statements for the 13 week period prior to the end of your employment)
- bank statements for the 30 days immediately after your employment ended
- evidence of weekly or annual wage rate
- separation certificate
- letter of termination.

For information about how the department may use and disclose your personal information please refer to the Information Management provisions of the FEG Act (see ss. 42–45).

Want more information?

You can contact the FEG Hotline if you would like more information about how to make your claim or you are unsure about the types of supporting documentation to include.

To contact the FEG Hotline:

- phone 1300 135 040 or
- email FEG@deewr.gov.au.

If you speak a language other than English, call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 13 14 50 for free help anytime.

Further information about FEG is also available on our website www.employment.gov.au/FEG.