

# Appendix D:

## Worker support payments

Figure D1: The department's support payments and eligibility criteria as of April 2024

Support payment type	Description
Hardship payment	<p>The one-off hardship payment is a singular payment of \$3,000 specifically for native timber employees working in community forestry. The payment is available to employees who have experienced significant hardship due to the end of native timber harvesting and have not been receiving or received any other government payments.</p> <p>Employees do not have to be made redundant to access this payment.</p>
Relocation reimbursement payments	<p>The relocation reimbursement is government-provided financial assistance designed to help timber employees who have been made redundant or whose casual employment has ended and their families if they need to relocate more than 50 kilometres from their current residence to secure new employment.</p> <p>Eligible employees made redundant and their families are reimbursed for relocation costs of up to \$45,000. The relocation reimbursement payment can be tailored to accommodate an employee's specific moving expenses.</p>
Top-up payments	<p>Top-up payments are available for eligible native timber employees who were made redundant or had a casual contract end due to the cessation of native timber harvesting.</p>
Over-45 payments	<p>Eligible employees over the age of 45 years and receiving the government top-up payment can receive an additional 3 weeks of pay for every year of service in the industry after the age of 45.</p>

Source: VAGO, based on the department's Worker Support Program service framework and eligibility criteria as at April 2024.