

Information on the number of Age Pensioners whose payment is affected under the assets test who have assessable curtilage

The number of current Age Pensioners whose payment is determined under the asset test and who have an assessable amount for curtilage adjacent to their principal home on their record was 9,369 at 31 December 2017.

The number of Age Pensioners who have had their payment cancelled due to the application of the assets test and at the time of cancellation had an assessable amount for curtilage on their record was 2,657 between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2017.

It should be noted that:

- The curtilage referred to above includes an undeterminable number of cases where the person's (and their partner's) home property including curtilage is less than 2 hectares in size but the person has assessable buildings and/or land that are not part of a person's principal home. For example, a person may have a workshop from which they conduct a business. Land and buildings that are not part of the person's principal home are assessable as an asset under the assets test, even where the curtilage adjacent to the home is less than 2 hectares. The social security database does not allow these curtilage assets to be disaggregated from cases where the curtilage is of 2 hectares or more in size.
- The value of a person (and their partner's) curtilage is added to the value of their other assessable assets to work out the rate of pension payable under the assets test. Therefore, where a person's pension is reduced or cancelled under the assets test, and they have assessable curtilage, it does not necessarily follow that the curtilage was the only reason that their payment was affected. For example, a person may also have other assessable non-curtilage assets that impact on their rate of payment.