

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON**  
**WORKFARE ENHANCEMENTS ANNOUNCED AT BUDGET 2016 FOR**  
**IMPLEMENTATION FROM 1 JANUARY 2017**

**1) What are the changes to Workfare announced at Budget 2016?**

Workfare Income Supplement (WIS) Scheme:

It was announced at Budget 2016 that the Government will be enhancing the Workfare Income Supplement (WIS) Scheme and the Workfare Training Support (WTS) Scheme.

Both schemes will be revised to take into account changes in income levels, so that Workfare will continue to help the bottom 20<sup>th</sup> income percentile of Singaporean workers, with some support also provided to those up to the 30<sup>th</sup> income percentile.

The following changes to WIS will provide a more direct and timely reward for work effort, and ensure that WIS continues to provide a meaningful level of support for eligible workers:

- (a) Qualifying income ceiling increased from \$1,900/month to \$2,000/month\*
- (b) Higher WIS payouts of up to \$3,600 per year
- (c) WIS to be paid for each month of work\*\*, on a monthly basis
- (d) Increase WIS payments to CPF Medisave and Special Accounts

*\* Based on the average monthly income for the months worked in the past 12 months.*

*\*\* The amount of payout for each month of work will be computed based on income earned in that month. The month's income should not exceed \$2,000.*

Workfare Training Support (WTS) Scheme:

The WTS criteria will be simplified to allow more workers to benefit from training incentives and funding:

- (a) Qualifying income ceiling increased from \$1,900/month to \$2,000/month
- (b) WTS extended to younger persons with disabilities
- (c) WTS Training Commitment Award extended to more workers

For more details on changes to WIS and WTS, please refer to the [Workfare Factsheet](#).

**2) When will the changes apply?**

The changes will apply from 1 January 2017.

### 3) Who qualifies for WIS from 2017?

You will receive WIS if you:

- (a) are a Singapore citizen;
- (b) are 35 years old and above on 31 December of the work year or aged 13 years old and above for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs);
- (c) earn a gross monthly income of not more than \$2,000 in the month worked;
- (d) earn an average gross monthly income<sup>1</sup> of not more than \$2,000 in the past 12 months;
- (e) live in a property with an annual value<sup>2</sup> of not more than \$13,000 assessed as at 31 December of the preceding year;
- (f) do not own two or more properties; and
- (g) If you are married,
  - you and your spouse together must not own two or more properties; and
  - the assessable income of your spouse must not exceed \$70,000.

<sup>1</sup>Average gross monthly income includes basic salary and extra wages such as overtime pay and bonuses.

<sup>2</sup>Annual value is the amount, before deductions, the property can be expected to earn in rent for the year.

### 4) When will WIS from 2017 be paid?

From 1 January 2017, WIS payments will be made on a monthly basis, instead of quarterly under the current system, to provide more direct and timely reward for work effort.

<b>If you worked in</b>	<b>Employees will receive the WIS payout in</b>
Jan 2017	End March 2017
Feb 2017	End April 2017
Mar 2017	End May 2017
Apr 2017	End June 2017
Month x	End of month (x + 2)

For example, the WIS payment for January 2017 will be made in end March 2017 and the WIS payment for February 2017 will be made in end April 2017. Under the current system, the WIS payment for January and February will only be made in June.

5) **What do I need to do to receive WIS?**

<b>If you are employed</b>	<b>If you are self-employed</b>
<p>If your employer makes CPF contributions for you, we will automatically assess your eligibility for WIS. You <u>do not need to do anything</u>.</p> <p>If your employer is not contributing CPF on your behalf, please inform us immediately. You can visit any CPF Service Centre or call 1800-221-9922.</p> <p>All calls are confidential.</p>	<p>For any particular year, we will pay your WIS in the following year. To receive WIS by 1 May, you will need to do the following by 31 March:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declare your income for the previous year to IRAS if you have received the income tax return, or declare your income to us at any Singapore Post branch if you have not received the income tax return.</li> <li>• Make Medisave contributions. Use our online WIS calculator at <a href="http://www.workfare.gov.sg">www.workfare.gov.sg</a> to find out the amount to contribute.</li> </ul>

6) **How much WIS will I get from 2017?**

<b>Your age in the work year</b>	<b>Maximum WIS payout per year</b>	
	<b>If you are employed</b>	<b>If you are self-employed</b>
35 to 44	\$1,500	\$1,000
45 to 54	\$2,200	\$1,467
55 to 59	\$2,900	\$1,933
60 and above	\$3,600	\$2,400

**If you are employed**, you will receive 40% of your WIS in cash and the remaining 60% in CPF contributions.

**If you are self-employed**, you will receive 10% of your WIS in cash and the remaining 90% in your Medisave Account.

We will pay the cash portion into your bank account, or send you a cheque if you do not have a bank account.

7) **How does the new income criterion work?**

To receive WIS for work done in any month, workers must have earned:

- (1) an average gross monthly income of not more than \$2,000 in the past 12 months; and
- (2) a gross monthly income of not more than \$2,000 in that particular month.

Examples:

**a) Mr Ho earned \$1,000/month from Feb to Dec 2016. He earned \$1,200/month in Jan and Feb 2017.**

2016											2017	
Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1200	1200

Assessment for Jan 2017

(1) Average monthly income for the months worked in the past 12 months  
 = \$12,200/ 12 months (Feb 2016 to Jan 2017)  
 = \$1,017, less than \$2,000

(2) Income for Jan 2017  
 = \$1,200, less than \$2,000

Mr Ho will receive WIS for working in Jan 2017.

Assessment for Feb 2017

(1) Average monthly income for the months worked in the past 12 months  
 = \$12,400/ 12 months (Mar 2016 to Feb 2017)  
 = \$1,033, less than \$2,000

(2) Income for Feb 2017  
 = \$1,200, less than \$2,000

Mr Ho will receive WIS for working in Feb 2017.

**b) Mr Ng earned \$3,000/month from Feb to Dec 2016. He earned \$1,800/month in Jan and Feb 2017.**

2016											2017	
Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	1800	1800

Assessment for Jan 2017

(1) Average monthly income for the months worked in the past 12 months  
 = \$34,800/ 12 months (Feb 2016 to Jan 2017)  
 = \$2,900, more than \$2,000

(2) Income for Jan 2017  
= \$1,800, less than \$2,000

Mr Ng will not receive WIS for working in Jan 2017.

Assessment for Feb 2017

(1) Average monthly income for the months worked in the past 12 months  
= \$33,600/ 12 months (Mar 2016 to Feb 2017)  
= \$2,800, more than \$2,000

(2) Income for Feb 2017  
= \$1,800, less than \$2,000

Mr Ng will not receive WIS for working in Feb 2017.

**c) Mr Tan earned \$1,700/month from May to Dec 2016. He earned \$2,100 in Jan 2017 and \$2,300 in Feb 2017.**

2016											2017	
Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
0	0	0	1700	1700	1700	1700	1700	1700	1700	1700	2100	2300

Assessment for Jan 2017

(1) Average monthly income for the months worked in the past 12 months  
= \$15,700/ 9 months (May 2016 to Jan 2017)  
= \$1,744, less than \$2,000

(2) Income for Jan 2017  
= \$2,100, more than \$2,000

Mr Tan will not receive WIS for working in Jan 2017.

Assessment for Feb 2017

(1) Average monthly income for the months worked in the past 12 months  
= \$18,000/ 10 months (May 2016 to Feb 2017)  
= \$1,800, less than \$2,000

(2) Income for Feb 2017  
= \$2,300, more than \$2,000

Mr Tan will not receive WIS for working in Feb 2017.

**d) Mr Lim earned \$1,800 /month from Feb to Dec 2017. He earned \$2,200 in Jan 2018 and \$1,800 in Feb 2018.**

2017											2018	
Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
1800	1800	1800	1800	1800	1800	1800	1800	1800	1800	1800	2200	1800

Assessment for Jan 2018

(1) Average monthly income for the months worked in the past 12 months  
 = \$22,000 / 12 months (Feb 2017 to Jan 2018)  
 = \$1,833, less than \$2,000

(2) Income for Jan 2018  
 = \$2,200, more than \$2,000

Mr Lim will not receive WIS for working in Jan 2018.

Assessment for Feb 2018

(1) Average monthly income for the months worked in the past 12 months  
 = \$22,000 / 12 months (Mar 2017 to Feb 2018)  
 = \$1,833, less than \$2,000

(2) Income for Feb 2018  
 = \$1,800, less than \$2,000

Mr Lim will receive WIS for working in Feb 2018.