



Parenthood Assistance Payment

Passed in the 2018-19 Budget, Government's \$1,000 Parenthood Assistance Payment is dedicated to helping low-income Fijian families to cover the costs of having and raising a newborn child. Launching on 1 August, the programme will help parents not only cover the cost of childrearing during infancy and upon entering primary school, it will also establish a solid financial foundation for the child to benefit from and build upon for the rest of his or her life.

Registration is purposefully mother-driven, as this programme aims to empower Fijian mothers and drive a cultural shift toward female-led financial stewardship in Fiji. Special provisions will be made for situations in which the mother is unable to apply.

To be eligible, the child must meet **all** of the following requirements:

- to be born on or after 1 August 2018;
- have a mother who is a Fijian citizen residing in Fiji;
- live with parents whose total income is \$30,000 per year or less (if the father is not living with the mother, her individual income is \$30,000 or less); and
- have their Parenthood Assistance Payment application filed within one year of the child's date of birth.

Should the child meet these eligibility requirements, the application process is as follows:

- **Step 1: Child's birth is registered and application is approved with a single visit to the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages ('BDM')**
 - BDM will issue a birth certificate and a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) to the child, and if necessary, to the mother.
 - In the case of mothers living in maritime areas where there is no access to a BDM office, they can apply when they register the child's birth, so long as it is within one year of the date of birth.
 - A signed application form, including the mother's chosen bank, will then be verified by BDM. BDM will then ensure that the form is properly filled out and all necessary documents are included (child's and mother's TIN, child's and mother's birth certificates, and the mother's photo ID with residential address).
 - Once the above is completed, BDM will immediately issue a letter of approval to the mother to be taken to her chosen bank.
- **Step 2: Child's account is opened and funds are made accessible with a single visit to the bank**
 - The mother must take the letter of approval with the original documents (TINs, birth certificates, and photo ID) to the bank.
 - The bank will then officially open an account in the child's name with the mother as signatory. Immediately upon the account's opening, \$1,000 will be deposited into the child's account.
 - Up to \$500 of the \$1,000 will be immediately available for withdrawal by the mother for childrearing expenses.
 - The account must maintain a minimum balance of \$500, which will be made available for withdrawal as soon as the child enrolls in Year 1 of primary school.
 - The account will be open for further deposits by loved ones for the child's expenses.
 - All funds withdrawn from the account must be used to cover childrearing expenses or for the benefit of the child.
 - There will be no fees on the account until the child is enrolled in Year 1, and interest will be earned on the balance at the bank's interest rate.

In the unfortunate event that a mother passes away before the child's account is opened, then the father or legal guardian living with the child can be the applicant. If the mother passes away after the account is opened but before the child enrolls in Year 1, the father or legal guardian will then become the account's signatory.

If a child dies after the account is opened, the mother or legal guardian can present the death certificate to the bank to receive the remaining balance for herself or himself.

In remote areas where banks are not accessible, the mother can use postal banking services through Post Fiji to open the account and make withdrawals.

Those children under State care will have an account opened for them by the State; the authorisation to operate the account will be transferred to new legal guardians upon adoption, or when reaching the age of 18.

Application forms are available at BDM offices and on the Fijian Government website and Facebook page.

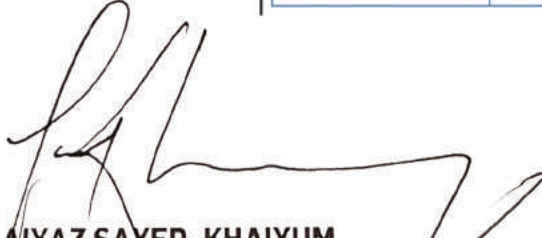
Please note that, under the False Information Act 2016, any false information given to Government for the purposes of receiving a benefit is an offence punishable by law, and may result in a requirement to repay the benefit, a fine of up to \$20,000 or an imprisonment term of up to 10 years or any or all of the foregoing. Spot checks will be conducted by the Ministry of Economy audit teams to verify claims (false declaration of family unit, misuse of withdrawn funds, etc.) and ensure that information provided is truthful and accurate.

All questions about the process above can be directed to the following numbers:

Registrar-General	Lawrence Prasad	990 5125
Administrator-General	Kamni Naidu	990 5420

BDM office addresses and phone numbers are listed below:

BDM Station	Physical Address	Contact Number
Ba	Koronubu House, Ba	667 4168
Kadavu	Vunisea Government Station, PA's Office, Vunisea, Kadavu	787 7196
Keiyasi	Vatumali, Government Station	922 3011
Korovou	Ground Floor Harbhai Patel Buildings, Korovou, Tailevu	344 0168
Labasa	Namuka House, Labasa	881 2448/ 881 2477
Lautoka	Level 1, Westfield Mall, Tukani Street, Lautoka	666 5133
Levuka	Lomaiviti Holdings Building, Beach Street, Levuka	344 0060
Nabouwalu	Naulumatua House, Nabouwalu	883 6124
Nadi	GT Plaza, Vunavou Crescent, Nadi Town	670 0312
Nausori	Tara's Building River Road, Nausori	347 5021
Navua	Ro Matanitobua House, Navua	346 0343
Rakiraki	Bhima Building, Vaileka, Rakiraki, Ra	669 4910
Savusavu	PA Savusavu's Office, Gulabdas Building, Savusavu	885 0006
Sigatoka	Keasuna Buildings, Sigatoka	650 0954
Suva	Suvavou House, Victoria Parade, Suva	990 5125 / 331 5280
Taveuni	Waiyevo, Taveuni	888 0400
Tavua	Mobil Building, Tabavu Street, Tavua	668 1009
Vunidawa	Vunidawa Government Station, Vunidawa	993 7985


AIYAZ SAYED-KHAIYUM
ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR ECONOMY