

Social Security Agreement between Australia and New Zealand



English

Does the Agreement help you?

If you live in Australia	and	have lived in New Zealand; OR
If you live in New Zealand	and	have resided in Australia.
The Agreement may help you to increase your income by making it easier for you to get an Australian or New Zealand pension.		

How does the Agreement help?

If you cannot meet the minimum qualifying period for either Australian or New Zealand pension, your periods of residence in Australia and your period of residence in New Zealand between the ages of 20 and 65 can be added together to meet the qualifying period regardless of whether you are living in Australia or New Zealand.

You will be able to claim a New Zealand payment using the Agreement while you are residing in either Australia or New Zealand.

How do you claim?

Australian claim forms can be obtained by downloading from website www.centrelink.gov.au (follow the 'Forms' link); calling your local New Zealand Work and Income office; or by contacting Centrelink.

If you are in Australia, New Zealand claim forms can be obtained from Centrelink.

If you are living in New Zealand you can lodge a claim for Australian pension at any of the New Zealand Work and Income offices.

Claims for Australian age pension can be lodged up to thirteen (13) weeks before reaching pension age.

www.centrelink.gov.au



Australian Government



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Which Australian pension should you claim?

If	you are over 65 years of age	and	you have lived in Australia for more than 10 years; OR the period of time you have lived in Australia and the period of time that you have resided in New Zealand between the ages of 20 and 65 adds up to more than 10 years	you should claim	Age Pension
If	you are unable to work because of a disability or are permanently blind	and	you have been assessed as 'severely disabled*' and your disability occurred while you were living in Australia; OR you have lived in Australia for more than 10 years; OR the period of time you have lived in Australia and the period of time that you have resided in New Zealand between the ages of 20 and 65 adds up to more than 10 years	you should claim	Disability Support Pension
If	you are providing full-time care for your partner	and	you are legally married to that partner and your partner is receiving an Australian Disability Support pension	you should claim	Carer Payment

***Note:** There are other specific requirements that must be satisfied before you can be paid Disability Support Pension.

Which New Zealand pension can you claim?

If	you are 65 years of age or over	and	you have lived in New Zealand for at least 10 years after the age of 20, including 5 years after the age of 50, OR your periods of residence in Australia between the ages of 20 and 65 and the time you have lived in New Zealand adds up to 10 years after age 20, including 5 years after age 50	you should claim	New Zealand Superannuation
If	you are 65 years of age or over	and	you satisfy the requirements for New Zealand Superannuation, AND have served in the New Zealand armed forces*, AND have a disability*	you should claim	Veterans pension

If	you are 16 years of age or over	and	have a disability, AND are assessed as being severely disabled** and you have lived in New Zealand for 10 years*, OR your periods of residence in Australia between the ages of 20 and 65 and the time you have lived in New Zealand adds up to 10 years	you should claim	Invalids benefit
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***Note:** There are other specific requirements regarding military service and your disability that must be satisfied before you can be paid Veterans pension.

****Note:** There are other specific requirements that must be satisfied before you can be paid Invalids benefit.

Work and Income in New Zealand make all decisions about New Zealand pension matters and you should contact them for more details.

If you are living in Australia you can contact Centrelink International Services for advice and help in claiming a New Zealand pension.

If you do not have sufficient New Zealand residence to be eligible for one of the above NZ payments, you will be able to count your periods of residence in Australia (between the age of 20 and 65) as periods of New Zealand residence and this may enable you to meet the residence requirements for a New Zealand payment.

What will you be paid?

The total amount of New Zealand & Australian pension that you receive is generally the same as what you would have received from the country you live in if you did not receive a pension from the other country.

If you live in Australia, your rate of New Zealand pension is based on how long you have lived in New Zealand between the ages of 20 and 65. Note: The New Zealand pension is limited to no more than the rate of Australian pension calculated under the income and assets test. If your New Zealand pension is less than that amount, you may receive a top-up of Australian pension to that level.







If you live in New Zealand, your rate of Australian pension is based on how long you have lived in Australia between the ages of 20 and 65*. If this is less than the normal rate of New Zealand pension, you may receive a top-up of New Zealand pension to that level.

*taking into account the income and asset tests.

Explanatory notes

New Zealand Pensions	The address for all enquiries and claim forms is: International Services Work and Income PO Box 27 178 Wellington N.Z. Telephone: 0011 64 4 916 2430 Freecall from within Australia: 1800 150 479 Fax: 0015 64 4 918 0159
Agreement countries	Australia has Social Security Agreements with a number of countries, including Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark*, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand*, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and the USA*. Agreements with other countries will be added to this list as they are implemented. *These countries do not accept Australian claims under other agreements.

Centrelink Facts

- If you would like more detailed information you should contact **Centrelink International Services** for free help and advice.
 -  **13 1673** inside Australia. Calls to 13 numbers from a standard telephone service can be made from anywhere in Australia for not more than the cost of a local call (call charges may vary depending upon the telephone service provider). Calls from public and mobile telephones may be charged at a higher rate.
 -  **0800 441 248** international freecall from New Zealand only.
 -  If elsewhere outside Australia, or if the above number is unavailable, call **(+61 3) 6222 3455**, or contact your local international telephone operator to arrange a reverse charge call.
 -  international.services@centrelink.gov.au
- Please note:** email is not a secure communication medium.
-  (+61 3) 6222 2799
 -  GPO Box 273, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001, Australia

Please note: The information in this brochure is accurate as at 1 July 2006 but may of course change. If you use this publication after that date, you should check that the details are up to date.