

Social Security rules for people arriving from New Zealand



English

New Zealand citizens who have arrived in Australia since 26 February 2001 may be affected by changed social security arrangements. Under the changed rules, New Zealanders will need to apply for and be granted a permanent resident visa before they can:

- access most social security payments including Newstart Allowance, Mature Age Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Youth Allowance, Widow Allowance, Austudy payment, Carer Payment, Carer Allowance, Partner Allowance, Parenting Payment Partnered, Mobility Allowance and Special Benefit
- sponsor their non-New Zealand citizen family members for permanent residence in Australia
- be eligible to apply for Australian citizenship.

Family Tax Benefit, Child Care Benefit, Maternity Allowance, and Double Orphan Pension are not affected by these changes. New Zealanders will also continue to have access to concession cards for low income earners and the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.

On 1 July 2002, a new Agreement commenced that covers Age Pension (for people aged 65 or more), Disability Support Pension (for the severely disabled) and Carer Payment (for partners of Disability Support Pensioners). People covered under the former (1995) Agreement will continue to receive their payments if they remain qualified. For more information, call **13 1673**.

New Zealanders who are not affected

These arrangements only affect people who arrive in Australia using a New Zealand passport so if this does not apply to you then you aren't affected. For example, Australian citizens, or people who arrive using any other passport, are not affected.

People who arrive in Australia using a New Zealand passport and who were already in Australia on 26 February 2001, or who had been in Australia for a total of at least 12 months in the two years prior to that date, are not affected.

People who applied for and were issued with a certificate from Centrelink prior to 26 February 2004 stating that they were residing in Australia on a particular date are also not affected.

More information contact Centrelink International Servicees on **13 1673** or visit our website at www.centrelink.gov.au

For more information in languages other than English, call **13 1202**.

* 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.

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.

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