

Social Security Agreement between Australia and Malta



English

Does the Agreement help you?

If you live in Australia	and	have contributed to the Maltese Social Insurance scheme; OR
you live in Malta	and	have been resident in Australia between the age of 16 and Pension age; OR
you live in another Agreement country*	and	have been resident in Australia between the age of 16 and Pension age; AND have worked in Malta and paid contributions;
the Agreement may help you to increase your income by making it easier for you to get an Australian or Maltese pension.		

How does the Agreement help?

If you cannot meet the minimum qualifying period for either Australian or Maltese pension, your periods of residence in Australia and your period of contributions to the Maltese Social Insurance Scheme can be added together to meet the qualifying period regardless of whether you are living in Australia or Malta. In some instances a deceased spouse's contributions can also be used to help you meet this requirement

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 Maltese Social Insurance office; or by contacting Centrelink.

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

If you are living in Malta you can lodge a claim for Australian pension at any of the Maltese Social Insurance Authority offices; if you live in another Agreement country you may lodge with any of the approved Agreement country* offices (see 'explanatory notes').

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

www.centrelink.gov.au



Australian Government



Which Australian pension should you claim?

If	you are male and over 65 years of age; OR you are female and over the qualifying age for Age Pension (see 'pension age' in the 'Explanatory notes' for more information)	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 contributed to the Maltese Social Insurance Scheme 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	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 contributed to the Maltese Social Insurance Scheme adds up to more than 10 years	you should claim	Disability Support Pension
If	you are a widow and you're still single	and	you have lived in Australia AND you are caring for one or more children under 8 years of age who have been to Australia or have been an Australian resident	you should claim	Parenting Payment
If	you are a widow	and	you have lived in Australia AND your spouse died less than 14 weeks ago; and you were living together at the time	you should claim	Bereavement Allowance

Which Maltese pension can you claim?

Retirement pension, Invalidity pension, Widows/Widowers pension. There are also other non-contributory pensions and allowances that may be available

The Maltese Social Insurance Authorities make all decisions about Maltese 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 Maltese pension.

What will you be paid?


The Maltese Social Insurance Authorities will calculate the amount of your Maltese pension. This will be based on your actual Maltese Insurance contributions, not your combined Maltese Social Insurance period and your Australian residence periods.


If you are living outside Australia, your Australian pension will be based on your periods of residence in Australia between the age of 16 and Pension age, taking into account your assets or other income and any amount of Maltese Pension that you may receive.

Explanatory notes

Maltese Social Insurance	International Relations Unit Social Security Department 38 Triq L-Ordinanza VALLETTA CMR 02 MALTA Telephone: (+356 21) 2590 3420 Fax: (+356 21) 2590 3282 Email: iru.dss@gov.mt Web: www.mfss.gov.mt														
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, Spain, Slovenia 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.														
Pension Age	This is the age at which you become eligible for Australian Age Pension. It is 65 years of age for men. The qualifying age for women depends on their date of birth. The table below shows when women qualify. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date of birth</th> <th>Qualification age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Before 1 January 1943</td> <td>62 ½</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 January 1943 to 30 June 1944</td> <td>63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 July 1944 to 31 December 1945</td> <td>63 ½</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 January 1946 to 30 June 1947</td> <td>64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 July 1947 to 31 December 1948</td> <td>64 ½</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 January 1949 and later</td> <td>65</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date of birth	Qualification age	Before 1 January 1943	62 ½	1 January 1943 to 30 June 1944	63	1 July 1944 to 31 December 1945	63 ½	1 January 1946 to 30 June 1947	64	1 July 1947 to 31 December 1948	64 ½	1 January 1949 and later	65
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➤ 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.

 If outside Australia, call **(+61 3) 6222 3455**, or contact your local international telephone operator to arrange a reverse charge phone 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.