

Social Security Agreement between Australia and Switzerland



English

Does the Agreement help you?

The Agreement may help you increase your income by making it easier for you to receive:

- **an Australian pension:**
 - if you live in Australia and have accumulated periods of Swiss Social Insurance, **or**
 - if you live in Switzerland or another agreement country (see "Explanatory notes") and have been resident in Australia between the age of 16 and age pension age for at least 12 months, of which at least six months must be consecutive.
- **a Swiss pension:**
 - if you are an Australian citizen or Swiss national and have accumulated Swiss Social Insurance periods.

How does the Agreement help?

The Agreement generally allows you to lodge your claim for an Australian pension from Australia, Switzerland or another agreement country, and add your periods of Australian residence and Swiss Social Insurance together to meet the minimum qualifying period for an Australian pension.

Under the Agreement Australian citizens, their family members and survivors may generally receive Swiss pensions under the same conditions as Swiss nationals, regardless of where they live.

How do you claim?

In Australia, Swiss pension claim forms can be obtained by contacting Centrelink International Services.

You can contact Centrelink International Services for advice and help in claiming a Swiss pension and can lodge the claim at any local Centrelink office.

In Switzerland, Australian pension claim forms can be obtained from our website www.centrelink.gov.au (follow the "forms" link), by contacting your local Swiss Social Insurance office or by contacting Centrelink International Services. You can lodge a claim for an Australian pension at any of the Swiss Social Insurance offices.

If you live in another Agreement country, Australian pension claim forms can be obtained from our website www.centrelink.gov.au (follow the "forms" link) or by contacting Centrelink International Services. You may also lodge a claim with the Social Insurance office in the country in which you live.

Claims for Australian pensions should be lodged promptly as backpayments are not normally made. Claims can be lodged up to 13 weeks before reaching age 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 "Explanatory notes")	and	you have lived in Australia for more than 10 years, or your periods of Australian residence and Swiss Social Insurance add up to more than 10 years	you should claim	Age Pension
If	you are unable to work because of a severe disability or are permanently blind	and	your disability or blindness occurred while you were living in Australia, or you have lived in Australia for more than 10 years, or your periods of Australian residence and Swiss Social Insurance add up to more than 10 years	you should claim	Disability Support Pension
If	you are living in Australia and are providing full-time care for someone	and	you have lived in Australia for at least 104 weeks	you should claim	Carer Payment
If	you are widowed	and	you are caring for one or more children under eight years of age who have been to Australia or have been an Australian resident, and you have lived in Australia for more than two years, or your Australian residence periods and Swiss Social Insurance periods add up to more than two years	you should claim	Parenting Payment
If	you are widowed	and	your spouse died less than 14 weeks ago, and you were living together at the time, and you have lived in Australia for more than 104 weeks, or your Australian residence periods and Swiss Social Insurance periods add up to more than 104 weeks	you should claim	Bereavement Allowance
If	you are caring for a young person	and	the young person became an orphan while living in Australia	you should claim	Double Orphan Pension

What Swiss pension can you claim?

If	you are male and over 65 years of age, or you are female and over 64 years of age	and	you have at least one year of Swiss Social Insurance	you should claim	Old Age Pension
If	you are over 18 years of age and are unable to work because of a disability	and	you have at least one year of Swiss Social Insurance	you should claim	Disability Pension
If	you are widowed and you are still single	and	your late husband or wife had Swiss Social Insurance	you should claim	Widows Pension
If	you are under 18 years of age and your parent has died	and	your parent had Swiss Social Insurance	you should claim	Orphans Pension

Note: The Swiss Social Insurance Authorities make all decisions about Swiss pension matters.

What will you be paid?

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 age pension age, taking into account your assets and other income and any amount of Swiss pension that you may receive.

The Swiss Social Insurance Authorities will calculate the amount of your Swiss pension. This will be based exclusively on your Swiss insurance periods. Australian residence periods cannot increase the amount of Swiss pension you can receive.

Explanatory notes

Swiss Social Insurance Office	<p>With regard to Swiss old age/survivors insurance:</p> <p>Caisse Suisse de Compensation Av. Edmond-Vaucher 18 Case postale 3100 Ch-1211 Genève 2 SWITZERLAND Phone: +41 22 795 91 11 Fax: +41 22 795 97 05 Email: sedmaster@zas.admin.ch Website: www.caisse-suisse.ch</p> <p>With regard to Swiss invalidity insurance:</p> <p>Office AI pour les assurés résidant à l'étranger (OAIE) Av. Edmond-Vaucher 18 Case postale 3100 Ch-1211 Genève 2 SWITZERLAND Phone: +41 22 795 91 11 Fax: +41 22 795 99 50 Email: oaie@zas.admin.ch Website: www.oaie.ch</p>												
Agreement countries	<p>Australia currently has Agreements with a number of countries, including Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark*, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand*, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland* and the USA*. Agreements with other countries will be added to this list as they are implemented.</p> <p>*These countries do not accept Australian claims under other Agreements.</p>												
Age pension age	<p>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 your date of birth, as shown below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="467 1659 1437 1906"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date of birth</th> <th>Qualification age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Before 1 July 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 July 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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For more information

If you would like more detailed information you should contact **Centrelink International Services** for free help and advice.

- You can call **13 1673** from within Australia. **Note:** Calls from your home phone to Centrelink "13" numbers from anywhere in Australia are charged at a fixed rate. That rate may vary from the price of a local call and may also vary between telephone service providers.
- You can call **+61 3 6222 3455** from outside Australia. You can contact your local international telephone operator to arrange a reverse charge call to this number.
- You can email **international.services@centrelink.gov.au** **Note:** Email is not a secure communication medium.
- You can fax +61 3 6222 2799.
- You can write to GPO Box 273, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001, Australia.

Please note: The information in this brochure is accurate as at 1 December 2007. If you use this publication after that date, you should check that the details are up to date.