

# Social Security Agreement between Australia and Slovenia



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 a period of social insurance in Slovenia, **or**
  - if you live in Slovenia and have been a resident in Australia between 16 years of age and age pension age for at least 12 months, of which at least six months must be consecutive.
- **a Slovene pension:**
  - if you are an Australian resident or Slovene national and have a period of social insurance in Slovenia.

## How does the Agreement help?

The Agreement generally allows you to lodge your claim for an Australian pension from Australia or Slovenia.

The Agreement may allow you to combine periods of your Australian residence (see 'Explanatory notes') and periods of Slovenian residence to meet the minimum qualifying period for an Australian pension.

## How do you claim?

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

You can contact Centrelink International Services for advice and help in claiming a Slovene pension and can lodge the claim at your nearest Centrelink Customer Service Centre.

In Slovenia, Australian pension claim forms can be obtained from **[www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)** (follow the 'Forms' link), by contacting your local Slovene social insurance authority office or by contacting Centrelink International Services. You can lodge a claim for an Australian pension at any Slovene social insurance authority office.

If you live in another country with which Australia has an international social security agreement, you may lodge a claim for a benefit under this Agreement with any approved office within that third country, providing that country will accept Australian claims under other international social security agreements (see 'Explanatory notes').

Claims for Australian pensions should be lodged promptly as back payments are not normally paid. Claims can be lodged up to 13 weeks before reaching age pension age.

## Australia's social security system

Australian social security payments are delivered by Centrelink. Australia's social security system differs from that of most other developed countries in that it is based on residence and need. Each person's pension is paid by the Australian Government out of general funds, rather than through contributions paid by individuals and employers into a social insurance fund. For this reason Australian pensions are income and asset tested. You will be required to disclose details of all your and/or your partner's income and assets if claiming an Australian pension.

## Which Australian pension can you claim?

<b>If</b>	you are male and over 65 years of age, <b>or</b>  you are female and over the qualifying age (see 'Explanatory notes')	<b>and</b>	you have lived in Australia for more than 10 years, <b>or</b>  the period of time you have lived in Australia and the period of insurance in Slovenia adds up to more than 10 years	<b>you can claim</b>	<b>Age Pension</b>
<b>If</b>	you are unable to work because of a disability, <b>or</b>  you are permanently blind	<b>and</b>	your disability or blindness occurred while you were living in Australia, <b>or</b>  you have lived in Australia for more than 10 years, <b>or</b>  the period of time you have lived in Australia and the period of insurance in Slovenia adds up to more than 10 years	<b>you can claim</b>	<b>Disability Support Pension</b>

## Which Slovene pension can you claim?

<b>If</b>	you are male and over 58 years of age, <b>or</b>  you are female and over 56 years of age*	<b>and</b>	the period of time you have lived in Australia during your working life and the period of insurance in Slovenia adds up to at least 40 years if male or 36 years and three months if female**	<b>you can claim</b>	<b>old age pension</b>
<b>If</b>	you are male and over 63 years of age, <b>or</b>  you are female and over 61 years of age	<b>and</b>	the period of time you have lived in Australia during your working life and the period of insurance in Slovenia adds up to at least 20 years	<b>you can claim</b>	<b>old age pension</b>
<b>If</b>	you are male and over 65 years of age, <b>or</b>  you are female and over 63 years of age	<b>and</b>	the period of time you have lived in Australia during your working life and the period of insurance in Slovenia adds up to at least 15 years	<b>you can claim</b>	<b>old age pension</b>
<b>If</b>	you are unable to work full-time due to a disability	<b>and</b>	you were insured in Slovenia for at least 12 months, <b>and</b>  you have a period of residence during your working life in Australia	<b>you can claim</b>	<b>disability pension</b>
<b>If</b>	you are a widow or widower aged over 53 years	<b>and</b>	your late partner was insured in Slovenia for at least 12 months, <b>and</b>  had a period of residence in Australia during their working life	<b>you can claim</b>	<b>survivors pension</b> (other dependents may also qualify for the payment)

A minimum of 12 months insurance in Slovenia is required for old age pension, disability pension and survivors pensions.

\*This rule for women is increasing by four months each year until 2014, when the age will be 58 years.

\*\*This insurance rule for women is increasing by three months each year until 2013 when it will be 38 years.

The Slovene Pension and Disability Insurance Institute make all decisions about Slovene 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 Slovene pension.

## What will you be paid?

Your Australian pension rate will be based on your and/or your partner's:

- income and assets (including any Slovene pension that you may receive), **and**
- periods of residence in Australia between 16 years of age and age pension age.

Centrelink may be advised by Australia's immigration department of your travel to and from Australia since 1994. We may use this information to ensure you are qualified for payments and that your payment rate is correct.

The Slovene Pension and Disability Insurance Office will calculate the amount of your Slovene pension. This will be based on your Slovene insurance period, and may use part of your Australian residence periods.

## Explanatory notes

<b>Slovene Pension and Disability Insurance Institute contact details</b>	Zavod za pokojninsko in invalidsko zavarovanje Slovenije Kolodvorska ulica 15 1518 Ljubljana SLOVENIA  Phone: <b>+38 61 474 5100</b> Fax: <b>+38 61 232 1265</b> Website: <b>www.mddsz.gov.si</b>																									
<b>Age pension age</b>	This is the age at which you become eligible for Australian Age Pension.  Women born before 31 December 1945 have reached age pension age.  Men born before 31 December 1945 reach age pension age at 65 years of age.  The table below describes the gradual increases in the qualifying age for Age Pension. <table border="1" data-bbox="467 1429 1444 1839"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="467 1429 954 1509">Born</th> <th data-bbox="954 1429 1203 1509">Women eligible for Age Pension at age</th> <th data-bbox="1203 1429 1444 1509">Men eligible for Age Pension at age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 1509 954 1559">1 January 1946 to 30 June 1947</td> <td data-bbox="954 1509 1203 1559">64</td> <td data-bbox="1203 1509 1444 1559">65</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 1559 954 1608">1 July 1947 to 31 December 1948</td> <td data-bbox="954 1559 1203 1608">64 ½</td> <td data-bbox="1203 1559 1444 1608">65</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 1608 954 1657">1 January 1949 to 30 June 1952</td> <td data-bbox="954 1608 1203 1657">65</td> <td data-bbox="1203 1608 1444 1657">65</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 1657 954 1706">1 July 1952 to 31 December 1953</td> <td data-bbox="954 1657 1203 1706">65 ½</td> <td data-bbox="1203 1657 1444 1706">65 ½</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 1706 954 1756">1 January 1954 to 30 June 1955</td> <td data-bbox="954 1706 1203 1756">66</td> <td data-bbox="1203 1706 1444 1756">66</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 1756 954 1805">1 July 1955 to 31 December 1956</td> <td data-bbox="954 1756 1203 1805">66 ½</td> <td data-bbox="1203 1756 1444 1805">66 ½</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 1805 954 1839">From 1 January 1957</td> <td data-bbox="954 1805 1203 1839">67</td> <td data-bbox="1203 1805 1444 1839">67</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Born	Women eligible for Age Pension at age	Men eligible for Age Pension at age	1 January 1946 to 30 June 1947	64	65	1 July 1947 to 31 December 1948	64 ½	65	1 January 1949 to 30 June 1952	65	65	1 July 1952 to 31 December 1953	65 ½	65 ½	1 January 1954 to 30 June 1955	66	66	1 July 1955 to 31 December 1956	66 ½	66 ½	From 1 January 1957	67	67
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<b>Australia's international social security agreement partners</b>	<p>Australia currently has international social security agreements with Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark*, Finland*, Germany, Greece*, the Republic of Ireland, Italy, Japan*, the Republic of Korea, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand*, Norway, Poland*, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland* and the USA*.</p> <p>*These countries do not accept Australian claims under other international social security agreements.</p>
<b>Australian residence periods</b>	<p>Australian residence means periods when you were residing in Australia as an Australian citizen or Australian permanent visa holder. Australian residence at any time is used to claim an Age Pension. The rate of Australian pension payable outside Australia is generally based on Australian residence between the ages of 16 and age pension age only.</p>
<b>Definition of a partner</b>	<p>For Centrelink purposes a person is considered to be your partner if you and the person are living together, or usually live together, and are married, or in a registered relationship, or in a de facto relationship.</p> <p>Centrelink considers a person to be in a de facto relationship from the time they start living with another person as a member of a couple.</p> <p>Centrelink recognises all couples, opposite-sex and same-sex.</p>

## For more information

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

- 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. Calls from public and mobile phones may be timed and charged at a higher rate.
- 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. Some Australian telephone companies also offer services that allow you to call into Australia at no cost.
- Email **international.services@centrelink.gov.au**  
**Note:** email is not a secure communication medium.
- Fax **+61 3 6222 2799**.
- Write to GPO Box 273, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia.

## Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is intended only as a guide to payments and services available.

### What are your responsibilities?

- It is your responsibility to decide if you wish to apply for a payment and to make the application, with regard to your particular circumstances.
- The information is accurate as at September 2010, but may of course change. If you use this publication after that date, please check with Centrelink that the details are up to date.

### From what date are benefits payable?

Most government payments are paid from, or after, the date on which the application is made. So the sooner you lodge your application the quicker you may be paid.

### What is the position if you deal with a third party?

You may deal with a third party who is not a member of Centrelink's staff. If you do so, please remember that Centrelink has not authorised any third parties to provide information or advice to you about payments.