

Social Security Agreement between Australia and Chile



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 Chile, **or**
 - if you live in Chile 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 Chilean pension:**
 - if you are an Australian resident or Chilean national and have a period of social insurance in Chile.

How does the agreement help?

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

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

The Agreement also allows a person who receives an Australian pension or is an Australian resident to be considered a 'current contributor' to the relevant Chilean social security scheme.

How do you claim?

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

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

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



Australian Government



www.centrelink.gov.au

Which Australian pension can 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 the period of time you have lived in Australia and your period of social insurance in Chile adds up to more than 10 years | you can claim | Age Pension |
| If | you are unable to work because of a disability, or you 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 the period of time you have lived in Australia and your period of social insurance in Chile adds up to more than 10 years | you can claim | Disability Support Pension |

Which Chilean pension can you claim?

| | | | | | |
|-----------|---|------------|---|----------------------|---|
| If | you are male and over 65 years of age, or you are female and over 60 years of age | and | you have at least one year's period of social insurance in Chile | you can claim | old age pension |
| If | you are a male under 65 years of age, or a female under 60 years of age, and you are unable to work full-time due to a disability | and | you have at least one year's period of social insurance in Chile | you can claim | disability pension |
| If | you are a widow | and | your late partner had at least one year's period of social insurance in Chile | you can claim | survivors pension (other dependants may also qualify for the payment) |

The relevant Chilean social security office will make all decisions about Chilean pension matters and you should contact them for more details.

If you are living in Australia you can contact Centrelink International Services for more information and help in claiming a Chilean pension.

Chilean Pensions of Mercy (Pensiones de Gracia) are exempt from Australian income test

Since the early 1990s the Chilean Government has paid 'Pensions of Mercy' to compensate and repair the moral suffering of the victims and relatives of victims of human rights abuse or political violence that occurred in Chile between 11 September 1973 and 10 March 1990 under the Pinochet Regime. These include monthly payments made under various Chilean laws.

Since 1 July 2004, Chilean 'Pensions of Mercy' payments are exempt income under the Australian income test for all customers, regardless of their country of residence. This means that these payments are not taken into account in calculating the rate of Australian payment to which you may be qualified.

What will you be paid?

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

- income and assets (including any Chilean pension, except 'Pensions of Mercy', 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 Chilean social security authorities will calculate the amount of your Chilean pension. This will be based on your periods of Chilean social insurance and may use part of your Australian residence periods.

Explanatory notes

| <p>Chilean Social Security office contact details</p> | <p>Superintendencia de Pensiones Teatinos N313 Santiago CHILE</p> <p>Phone: +56 2 753 0100, or 600 831 2012 if inside Chile</p> <p>Fax: +56 2 753 0257</p> <p>Website: www.safp.cl</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----|----|---------------------------------|------|----|--------------------------------|----|----|---------------------------------|------|------|--------------------------------|----|----|---------------------------------|------|------|---------------------|----|----|
| <p>Age pension age</p> | <p>This is the age at which you become eligible for Australian Age Pension.</p> <p>Women born before 31 December 1945 have reached age pension age.</p> <p>Men born before 31 December 1945 reach age pension age at 65 years of age.</p> <p>The table below describes the gradual increases in the qualifying age for Age Pension.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="467 1615 1444 2024"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="467 1615 954 1697">Born</th> <th data-bbox="954 1615 1206 1697">Women eligible for Age Pension at age</th> <th data-bbox="1206 1615 1444 1697">Men eligible for Age Pension at age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 1697 954 1742">1 January 1946 to 30 June 1947</td> <td data-bbox="954 1697 1206 1742">64</td> <td data-bbox="1206 1697 1444 1742">65</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 1742 954 1787">1 July 1947 to 31 December 1948</td> <td data-bbox="954 1742 1206 1787">64 ½</td> <td data-bbox="1206 1742 1444 1787">65</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 1787 954 1832">1 January 1949 to 30 June 1952</td> <td data-bbox="954 1787 1206 1832">65</td> <td data-bbox="1206 1787 1444 1832">65</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 1832 954 1877">1 July 1952 to 31 December 1953</td> <td data-bbox="954 1832 1206 1877">65 ½</td> <td data-bbox="1206 1832 1444 1877">65 ½</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 1877 954 1921">1 January 1954 to 30 June 1955</td> <td data-bbox="954 1877 1206 1921">66</td> <td data-bbox="1206 1877 1444 1921">66</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 1921 954 1966">1 July 1955 to 31 December 1956</td> <td data-bbox="954 1921 1206 1966">66 ½</td> <td data-bbox="1206 1921 1444 1966">66 ½</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 1966 954 2024">From 1 January 1957</td> <td data-bbox="954 1966 1206 2024">67</td> <td data-bbox="1206 1966 1444 2024">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 |
| 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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| <p>Australia’s international social security agreement partners</p> | <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> |
| <p>Australian residence periods</p> | <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> |
| <p>Definition of a partner</p> | <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 April 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.