



# Social Security Agreement between Australia and Switzerland

## Australia's social security system

Australia's social security system is different to most other countries. Each person's pension is paid by the Australian Government out of general funds, rather than through contributions paid into a social insurance fund. For this reason, Australian pensions are income and asset tested.

You will have to tell us about all of your, and if you have a partner<sup>1</sup>, your partner's<sup>1</sup> income and assets if you want to claim an Australian pension.

## How does the agreement help you?

If you live in Australia, Switzerland or another specified agreement country<sup>5</sup>, the Agreement generally allows you to submit a claim for an Australian or Swiss payment. It also allows you to add together your periods of residence in Australia and periods of social security coverage in Switzerland, so you can meet any minimum requirements for payment.

## Australian payments

We make all decisions about Australian payments.

## Who can get an Australian payment?

To qualify under the agreement, you generally need to meet the following basic requirements:

Australian payment	Basic qualifications:
<b>Age Pension</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• you must have reached the qualifying age (refer to <a href="https://servicessaustralia.gov.au/agepension">servicessaustralia.gov.au/agepension</a> for details), and</li><li>• your total Australian residence<sup>2</sup> combined with your period(s) of coverage in Switzerland must add up to at least 10 years.</li></ul>
<b>Disability Support Pension</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• you must have a disability, or be permanently blind, and</li><li>• your disability/blindness must have occurred while you were living in Australia.</li></ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• you must have a disability, or be permanently blind, and</li><li>• your total Australian residence<sup>2</sup> combined with your period of coverage in Switzerland must add up to at least 10 years.</li></ul>
<b>Carer Payment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• you must be providing full-time care for someone, and</li><li>• you must have lived in Australia before.</li></ul>
<b>Parenting Payment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• your partner must be deceased, and</li><li>• you must be caring for one or more children under 8 years of age who have been to Australia before, and</li><li>• your total Australian residence<sup>2</sup> combined with your period(s) of coverage in Switzerland must add up to at least 2 years.</li></ul>

Australian payment	Basic qualifications:
<b>Double Orphan Pension</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you must be caring for a young person, and</li> <li>• the young person must have become an orphan while they were an Australian resident.</li> </ul>

**Notes:**

- There may be additional requirements you need to meet before you can be paid.
- If you live outside Australia when you claim, you generally need at least 12 months Australian Working Life Residence<sup>2</sup>, of which 6 months must be in one period.
- We cannot be sure if you will get a payment, until you submit a claim and your circumstances are taken into account. It's your responsibility to decide whether you submit a claim for payment or not.

**How do I claim an Australian payment?**

If you are in:	
<b>Australia</b>	<p>To get a claim form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you need a myGov account linked to your Centrelink online account, or</li> <li>• print and complete a <i>Claim for Age Pension and Pension Bonus</i> form from <b>servicesaustralia.gov.au/sa002</b> and the <i>Income and Assets</i> form from <b>servicesaustralia.gov.au/sa369</b>, or</li> <li>• call us on the Older Australians line<sup>4</sup>.</li> </ul> <p>To lodge a claim form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• upload via myGov, or</li> <li>• you can give your claim form and any supporting documents to us by mail<sup>4</sup> or by visiting your nearest Services Australia Service Centre.</li> </ul>
<b>Switzerland</b>	<p>To get a claim form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contact the Swiss social insurance agency<sup>3</sup>, or</li> <li>• call us on the International Services line<sup>4</sup>, or</li> <li>• print and complete a <i>Claim for Australian pension from an agreement country</i> form from <b>servicesaustralia.gov.au/aus140</b> and an <i>Income and Assets</i> form from <b>servicesaustralia.gov.au/mod-ia</b></li> </ul> <p>To lodge your claim form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take your claim form and any supporting documents to any Swiss social insurance agency office<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul>
<b>Another specified agreement country<sup>5</sup></b>	<p>To get a claim form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• call us on the International Services line<sup>4</sup>, or</li> <li>• print and complete a <i>Claim for Australian pension from an agreement country</i> form from <b>servicesaustralia.gov.au/aus140</b> and an <i>Income and Assets</i> form from <b>servicesaustralia.gov.au/mod-ia</b></li> </ul>

If you are in:	
	To lodge your claim form: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take your claim form and any supporting documents to any social insurance agency office in that country.</li> </ul>

Claims for Australian payments can generally be submitted up to 13 weeks early. You must submit your claim form and *all supporting documents* at the same time. If you do not do this your claim may not be accepted.

## Swiss payments

The Swiss social insurance agency makes all decisions about Swiss payments. For more information about Swiss payments, you should contact the Swiss social insurance agency<sup>3</sup>.

### Who can get a Swiss payment?

To see if you can get a Swiss Old Age Pension, Disability Pension, Widow's Pension or Orphan's Pension you will need to refer to the website of the Swiss social insurance agency<sup>3</sup>.

### How do I claim a Swiss payment?

If you are in:	
<b>Australia</b>	To get a claim form: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• call us on the International Services line<sup>4</sup>.</li> </ul>
	To lodge your claim form: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take your claim form and any supporting documents to your nearest Services Australia Service Centre, or</li> <li>• return your claim form and any supporting documents to us by mail<sup>4</sup>.</li> </ul>
<b>Switzerland</b>	To get a claim form: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• follow any instructions on the website of the Swiss social insurance agency<sup>3</sup>, or</li> <li>• contact the Swiss social insurance agency<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul>
	To lodge your claim form: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• follow any instructions on the website of the Swiss social insurance agency<sup>3</sup>, or</li> <li>• take your claim form and any supporting documents to any Swiss social insurance agency office<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul>

## For more information

If you need more information, contact us<sup>4</sup> for free help and advice.

Footnote	Information	
<b>1. Definition of a partner</b>	<p>You have a partner if we consider you a member of a couple. We consider you a member of a couple if you're:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• married</li> <li>• in a registered relationship</li> <li>• in a de facto relationship.</li> </ul> <p>A registered relationship is where your relationship is registered under a law of an Australian state or territory.</p> <p>If your relationship is registered outside Australia, we do not recognise it as a registered relationship. You can use it as evidence for a de facto relationship. A de facto relationship is where you and your partner are in a relationship similar to a married couple but are not married or in a registered relationship.</p>	
<b>2. Australian residence/ Australian Working Life Residence</b>	<p>'Australian residence' means periods when you were residing in Australia as an Australian citizen or Australian permanent visa holder.</p> <p>Australian residence at any time is used to qualify for an Australian payment.</p> <p>'Australian Working Life Residence' is period/s of Australian residence between the ages of 16 and Australian Age Pension age only.</p>	
<b>3. Swiss social insurance agency contact details</b>	<b>For Swiss old age/survivors insurance</b>	
	<b>Caisse Suisse de Compensation</b>  Av. Edmond-Vaucher 18 Case postale 3100 1211 Genève 2 SWITZERLAND	<b>Website: <a href="http://zas.admin.ch">zas.admin.ch</a></b>  <b>Phone: +41 58 461 91 11</b>  <b>Fax: +41 58 461 99 50</b>  <b>Email: <a href="mailto:sedmaster@zas.admin.ch">sedmaster@zas.admin.ch</a></b>
	<b>For Swiss invalidity insurance</b>	
	<b>Office AI pour les assurés à résident l'étranger(OAIE)</b>  Av. Edmond-Vaucher 18 Case postale 3100 1211 Genève 2 SWITZERLAND	<b>Website: <a href="http://zas.admin.ch">zas.admin.ch</a></b>  <b>Phone: +41 58 461 91 11</b>  <b>Fax: +41 58 461 99 50</b>  <b>Email: <a href="mailto:oaie@zas.admin.ch">oaie@zas.admin.ch</a></b>

Footnote	Information	
<b>4. Services Australia contact details</b>	<b>Centrelink International Services Services Australia</b> PO Box 7809, Canberra BC, ACT, 2610 AUSTRALIA	<b>Website: <a href="https://servicesaustralia.gov.au">servicesaustralia.gov.au</a></b> <b>Phone:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>+61 3 6222 3455</b> International Services (from outside Australia only)</li> <li>• <b>132 300</b> Older Australians line (from Australia only)</li> <li>• <b>131 673</b> International Services (from Australia only)</li> </ul> <b>Fax: +61 3 6222 2799</b> <b>Note:</b> Call charges apply—calls from mobile phones may be charged at a higher rate.
<b>5. Another Specified agreement country</b>	Claims under the Swiss agreement can be lodged with the authorities in Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Chile, Cyprus, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Korea (Republic of), Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain or Switzerland.	

## Disclaimer

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

The information in this factsheet is accurate as at April 2022. If you use this publication after that date, please check with us that the details are up to date.