



Social Security Agreement between Australia and Ireland

Australia's social security system

Australia's social security system is different to most other developed countries. 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.

Services Australia delivers Australian social security payments to individuals.

You will have to tell us about all of your, and in some instances, your partner's¹ income and assets if you want to claim an Australian pension.

How does the agreement help you?

The agreement generally allows you to lodge a claim for payment from either country. It also allows you to add together your periods of residence in Australia and periods of social security coverage in Ireland, so you can meet the minimum requirements for payment.

Who can get an Australian payment?

If you live in Australia, Ireland or another specified agreement country⁵, you can lodge a claim for the Australian Age Pension, Disability Support Pension and Parenting Payment in any of those countries.

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

Age Pension

You may be able to get Age Pension if:

- you are over the qualifying age (refer to servicessaustralia.gov.au for details), and
- the total period of time you have lived in Australia and/or your periods of coverage in Ireland add up to more than 10 years.

Disability Support Pension

You may be able to get Disability Support Pension if:

- you have a disability, or
- you are permanently blind, and
- your disability/blindness occurred while you were living in Australia, or
- the total period of time you have lived in Australia and/or your periods of coverage in Ireland add up to more than 10 years.

Parenting Payment

You may be able to get Parenting Payment if:

- your partner is deceased, and

- you are caring for one or more children under eight years of age who have been to Australia before, and
- the total period of time you have lived in Australia and/or your periods of coverage in Ireland add up to more than two years.

Note: if you live outside Australia when you claim, you generally need at least 12 months Australian Working Life Residence², of which six months must be continuous.

* There may be additional requirements you need to meet before you can be paid.

Who can get an Irish payment?

Under the agreement, you can add periods of Australian Working Life Residence² to your periods of coverage in Ireland to meet the minimum requirement for the Irish the State Pension (Contributory), State Pension (Transition), Invalidity Pension, Widow/Widower's Contributory Pension, Bereavement Grant and Guardian's Payment (Contributory).

The Irish pension authorities make all decisions about Irish payments. For more information about Irish payments, you should contact the Irish pension authorities³.

How do I claim?

If you are in Australia, to claim:

- an Australian payment under the agreement, go to **servicesaustralia.gov.au**
- an Irish payment, contact the agency, or
- lodge your claim at your nearest Service Centre.

If you are in Ireland, to claim:

- an Irish payment, contact your local Irish social insurance office
- an Australian payment:
 - contact your local Irish social insurance office
 - the agency, or
 - download the claim forms from **servicesaustralia.gov.au**

You can also lodge your claim at any local Irish social insurance office.

If you are in another specified agreement country⁵, to claim:

- an Australian payment contact the department, or
- download the claim forms from **servicesaustralia.gov.au**

You can also lodge your claim at any local social insurance office in that third country.

To get a claim for an Irish payment, contact the Irish pension authorities³. You will need to lodge your claim for an Irish payment directly with the Irish pension authorities.

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

For more information

If you would like more detailed information you should contact us⁴ for free help and advice.

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 July 2020. If you use this publication after that date, please check with us that the details are up to date.

Should I lodge a claim?

We can't be sure if you will get a payment, until you lodge a claim and your circumstances are taken into account. It is your responsibility to decide whether you lodge a claim for payment or not.

From what date are the payments available?

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.

For Australian payments, you must lodge your claim and all supporting documents at the same time. If you don't your claim may not be accepted.

What do you need to do when dealing with a third party?

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

Notes

<p>1. Definition of a partner</p>	<p>For our purposes, a person is considered to be your partner if you and the person are living together, or usually live together, are married, in a registered relationship (opposite or same-sex), or in a de facto relationship (opposite or same-sex).</p> <p>The agency 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>The agency recognises all couples, opposite-sex and same-sex.</p>
<p>2. Australian residence</p>	<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>'Working Life Residence' is period/s of Australian residence between the ages of 16 and Australian age pension age only.</p>

<p>3. Irish social insurance contact details</p>	<p>For retirement and widows' payments: Department of Social Protection Social Welfare Services College Road Sligo Call +353 71 915 7100</p> <p>For invalid payments: Invalidity Pension Section Social Welfare Services Government Buildings Ballinalee Road Longford Call +353 43 334 0000</p> <p>Email info@welfare.ie Website welfare.ie</p>
<p>4. Services Australia contact details</p>	<p>Go to servicesaustralia.gov.au Call 131 673 from within Australia. Call 1800 200 333 from Ireland only.</p> <p>Note: this international Freecall™ number connects you directly to Services Australia. This Freecall™ may not be available from every location within Ireland and may not be free from mobile phones or public phones. You may need to insert coins/card in payphones as for a local call and this may not be refunded at the end of the call.</p> <p>If you aren't able to use the Freecall™ number listed above, please contact us on +61 3 6222 3455.</p> <p>Note: call charges apply—calls from mobile phones may be charged at a higher rate.</p> <p>Fax +61 3 6222 2799 Write to PO Box 7809, Canberra BC ACT 2610, Australia.</p>
<p>5. Specified agreement country</p>	<p>Go to servicesaustralia.gov.au</p>