

Social Security Agreement between Australia and the Czech Republic



English

Does the Agreement help you?

If you have lived in Australia and lived in the Czech Republic the Agreement may help you to increase your income by making it easier to receive:

- Australian Age Pension
- Czech Age Pension, Disability Pension and Survivors Pension.

There are some restrictions on qualification for some Czech payments.

How does the Agreement help?

The Agreement allows you to lodge your claim for an Australian Age Pension from Australia or the Czech Republic.

The Agreement may allow you to combine periods of your Australian residence (see explanatory notes) and your periods of insurance in the Czech Republic to meet the minimum qualifying period for an Australian Age Pension.

The Agreement allows some Czech pensions and benefits to be paid to Australian residents and Czech nationals in Australia and allows some periods of residence in Australia to count for some Czech benefits.

How do you claim?

In Australia, Czech pension claim forms can be obtained by contacting Centrelink. You can lodge your Czech pension claim forms by taking the forms to any Centrelink Customer Service Centre or posting the forms to Centrelink International Services.

In the Czech Republic, Australian pension claim forms can be obtained from our website www.centrelink.gov.au (follow the 'forms' link), by contacting the Czech Social Security Administration or by contacting Centrelink International Services. You can lodge a claim form for an Australian Age Pension at the Czech Social Security Administration.

Claims for an Australian Age Pension can be lodged up to 13 weeks before reaching Australian 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.

Who can claim an Australian Age Pension?

You can claim an Australian Age Pension if you are over Australian age pension age (see explanatory notes), **and**

- you have lived in Australia for more than 10 years, **or**
- the total of your periods of Australian residence and your periods of insurance in the Czech Republic is more than 10 years*.

*If you are not an Australian resident, and do not have 10 years of residence in Australia when you lodge your claim, you must have at least 12 months of Australian residence between the ages of 16 and the Australian age pension age.

Which Czech 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 12 months of Czech Social Insurance coverage as well as a period of residence in Australia	you can claim	Age Pension
If	you are male and between 16 and 65 years of age, or you are female and between 16 and 60 years of age*	and	you are unable to work due to a physical or medical condition	you can claim	Disability Pension
If	you are a widow or widower*	and	your late spouse had a period of insurance under the legislation of the Czech Republic	you can claim	Survivors Pension
If	you are under 25 years of age and your parent is deceased	and	your late parent had a period of insurance under the legislation of the Czech Republic	you can claim	Survivors Pension

* Some pensions may be paid earlier, depending on circumstances.

What will you be paid?

Your Australian Age Pension rate will be based on your income and assets, including any Czech pension you may receive.

If you live outside Australia, your rate may also be based on your periods of residence in Australia between 16 years of age and Australian 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 help ensure you are qualified for payments and that your rate of payment is correct.

The Czech Social Security Administration make all decisions about Czech pension matters. The Czech Social Security Administration will calculate the amount of your Czech pension based on your periods of insurance in the Czech Republic.

Explanatory notes

Contact details for the Czech Social Security Administration Office	Česká Správa Sociálního Zabezpečení (CSSA) Křížová 25 225 08 Praha 5 CZECH REPUBLIC Telephone: +420 257 061 111 Fax: +420 257 063 360 email: posta@cssz.cz	
Age pension age	This is the age at which you become eligible for an Australian Age Pension.	
	For males the minimum qualifying age for an Australian Age Pension is:	
	Date of birth	Age pension age
	Before 1 July 1952	65
	1 July 1952 to 31 December 1953	65 ½
	1 January 1954 to 30 June 1955	66
	1 July 1955 to 31 December 1956	66 ½
	1 January 1957 or later	67
	For females the minimum qualifying age for Australian Age Pension is:	
	Date of birth	Age pension age
	Before 1 July 1947	64
	1 July 1947 to 31 December 1948	64 ½
	1 January 1949 to 30 June 1952	65
	1 July 1952 to 31 December 1953	65 ½
	1 January 1954 to 30 June 1955	66
	1 July 1955 to 31 December 1956	66 ½
	1 January 1957 or later	67
Australia's international social security agreement partners	Australia currently has international social security agreements with Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark*, Finland*, Germany, Greece*, the Republic of Ireland, Italy, Japan*, the Republic of Korea , the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand*, Norway, Poland*, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the USA*. *These countries do not accept Australian claims under other international social security agreements.	
Australian residence periods	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.	
Definition of a partner	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. Centrelink considers a person to be in a de facto relationship from the time they commence living with another person as a member of a couple. Centrelink recognises all couples, opposite-sex and same-sex.	

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, if this service is available in your country. 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 PO Box 7809, BC Canberra ACT 2610, 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 May 2011, but may 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 Australian 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.