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**To:** "The Southern Cross Group" [southern\\_cross\\_group@hotmail.com](mailto:southern_cross_group@hotmail.com)

**Subject:** Query on Centrelink's Age Pension News

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Dear Ms McCrae

Further to my earlier email, unfortunately the change that has been announced does not mean that people would automatically be able to access their foreign pension where there is no existing reciprocal agreement. As you are aware, some countries still require a social security agreement before they will allow payment of domestic pensions overseas.

However, under the new rules, where a person is able to claim their contributions-based entitlements and domestic legislation allows for payment of that pension overseas, a person who claims an Australian pension is also required to claim all comparable foreign payments to which they may be entitled under the laws of the comparable foreign payment country. This rule applies regardless of whether the person resides in a country that has a social security agreement with Australia.

You will appreciate that Australia is not able to legislate to change the domestic legislation of other countries, but where there is no legal impediment to a person being paid overseas Australia will require them to claim their entitlement. The effect of this may be that the person's Australian pension could be reduced by the amount of foreign pension that is paid. We would also hope that this will encourage overseas countries to enter into social security agreements with Australia as there may be income test concessions included in an agreement that would not otherwise apply.

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Marion Carrick