

"The Southern Cross Group" <southern_cross_group@hotmail.com> on 31/10/2000
21:26:56

To: Marion Carrick/User/FaCS@FaCS

Subject: Query on Centrelink's Age Pension News

Dear Ms. Carrick

The Southern Cross Group has received a copy of Centrelink's Age Pension News which contained an article entitled, "You may be entitled to an overseas pension."

Some of our members have interpreted this as to mean that they will be able to access their foreign pension regardless of an existing reciprocal agreement. If you could provide some clarification on the below article, it would be much appreciated.

The text is below:

"The Government has legislated to extend the requirement to claim overseas pensions to all countries. This means that people claiming or receiving some Australian payments will now also have to pursue all overseas pension entitlements. Previously this was only required of people who were born in a country with which Australian has a Social Security Agreement. Changes come into force on 20 September 2000.

The new rules will apply to customers who were born in or who have lived in any foreign country and who are claiming one of the following types of Australian payments: Age Pension; Bereavement Allowance; Carer Payment; Disability Support Pension; Parenting Payment Single; Parenting Payment Partnered; Widow Allowance; Widow B Pension; Wife Pension.

Centrelink will contact some existing pensioners of Australian Pension age who may have a foreign pension entitlement. If it is likely that another country might pay them a pension, Centrelink will ask them to claim it from that country.

Many people will benefit from the new policy because any new grant of overseas pension will increase that person's overall income."

Yours sincerely
Helen McRae