



Australian Government

Department of Family and Community Services

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Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Department of the House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

TT 8 February 2005
Submission No: 4

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties – Public Hearing 14 March 2005

I refer to the above hearing concerning the tabling of the treaty for the revised social security agreement with Malta.

At the hearing Mr. Malcolm Turnbull MP, requested a table 'which sets out the various arrangements of treaties of this kind that we have to enable one to readily compare them' (TR 17).

Attached is a table providing the basic details of all of Australia's current Agreements including payments covered by both countries, whether Superannuation Guarantee provisions are included and comments on the possible future reviews of the agreements.

I hope this information is useful.

Yours sincerely

Peter Hutchinson
A/g Branch Manager
International Branch

29 April 2005

**Summary of Australia's International Social Security Agreements
as at (April - 2005)**

Country	Commenced	Australian Benefits Included	Agreement Country Benefits included	Double Coverage (SG)* Provisions?	Comments
Austria	Original - 1/12/1992	Age pension	retirement pension	No	We have approached Austria about reviewing the Agreement to include double coverage provisions (affecting Australia's Superannuation Guarantee) and hope to hold talks in 2005/6.
	Current - 1/10/2002	Disability Support pension for the severely disabled	early retirement pension		
		Wife pension	disability pension		
		Carer payments	surviving spouse's pension		
		Pensions payable to widowed persons.	orphan's pension		
		Double Orphan pension	additional amounts for dependent children		
		hiflosenzuschuss' (helpless person allowance)			
		'pflegegeld' (personal care benefit)			
		'ausgleichszulage' (supplementary payment)			
Canada	Original - 1/09/1989	Age pension	old age security pension, guaranteed income supplement, spouse's allowance	No	We intend to review, as soon as mutually convenient, to include provisions to avoid double coverage for seconded workers (Superannuation Guarantee).
	Current - 1/01/2003	Disability Support pension for the severely disabled.			
		Carer payment	Retirement pension		
		Pensions payable to widowed persons	Disability pension		
		Additional child amounts	Survivor's pension		
			disabled contributor's child's benefit		
		orphan's pension			
		Death benefit			
Chile	1/07/2004	Age pension	Old-Age pension	Yes	
		Disability Support pension for the severely disabled	Invalidity pension		
			Survivor's pension		

* Affecting Australia's Superannuation Guarantee (SG) scheme.

**Summary of Australia's International Social Security Agreements
as at (April - 2005)**

Country	Commenced	Australian Benefits Included	Agreement Country Benefits included	Double Coverage (SG)* Provisions?	Comments
Croatia	1/07/2004	Age pension Disability Support pension for the severely disabled.	old-age pension Anticipatory pension Disability pension Survivor pension all other benefits under the Pension Insurance legislation.	Yes	
Cyprus	1/01/1993	Age pension Disability Support pension for the severely disabled Pensions payable to widows Widowed person allowance Carer payment	Age pension Invalidity and work related disablement benefit. Survivor's pension Funeral benefit	No	
Denmark	1/01/2001	Age pension Disability Support pension for the severely disabled Parenting Payment for widowed persons	Old-age pension Anticipatory pension (disability pension)	No	
Germany	1/01/2003	Age pension Disability Support for the severely disabled Carer payment Pensions payable to widowed persons Double Orphan pension	Old age (retirement) pension Early age (retirement) pension Reduced earning capacity pension (for disabled) Child raising pension Widows/Widower's pension Orphan pension	No	Reviewing to include double coverage (SG) provisions for seconded workers - expect German delegation in Canberra in 2005.

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**Summary of Australia's International Social Security Agreements
as at (April - 2005)**

Country	Commenced	Australian Benefits Included	Agreement Country Benefits included	Double Coverage (SG)* Provisions?	Comments
Ireland	1/04/1992	Age pension	Old-age (contributory) pension	No	Under review to restrict disability support pension to the severely disabled, and to include double coverage (SG) provisions. We hope the revised Agreement can be signed in May/June (in Dublin) with implementation on 1 January 2006.
		Disability Support pension	Retirement pension		
		Pensions payable to widows	Invalidity pension		
		Wives' pensions.	Widows (contributory) pension		
		Widowed person's allowances	Orphan's (contributory) allowance Death grants		
Italy	Original - 1/09/1988	Age pension	Old age pension	No	Under review to include double coverage (SG) provisions - we hope to host Italian delegation for negotiations in Australia in 2005.
	Current - 1/10/2000	Disability Support pension for the severely disabled	Seniority pension		
		Wife pension	Anticipated pension		
		Pensions payable to widows	Invalidity allowance		
		Widowed person allowance	Inability pension		
		Carer payment (for partners of people who are in receipt of Australian Age or DSP for the severely disabled),	Privileged invalidity allowance		
		Double Orphan pension	Privileged inability allowance		
		Additional Child amounts	Invalidity attendants allowance		
			Survivor's pensions		
			Family allowance for dependants of pensioners		
	Unemployment allowance				
Malta	1/07/1991	Age pension	Retirement pension (Contributory)	No	A new Agreement was signed in June 2004 and is expected to come into force on 1 July 2005. It will limit coverage of Disability Support pension to those who are severely disabled.
		Disability Support pension			
		Wive's pensions	Invalidity pension (Contributory)		
		Pensions payable to widows	Widowhood pension (Contributory) Malta also pays non-contributory pensions and assistance under the Agreement but these are usually only paid in Malta.		

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as at (April - 2005)**

Country	Commenced	Australian Benefits Included	Agreement Country Benefits included	Double Coverage (SG)* Provisions?	Comments
Netherlands	Original - 1/04/1992	Age pension	General old age insurance.	Yes	
	Current - 1/04/2003	Disability Support pension for the severely disabled.	Invalidity insurance for employees and self employed.		
			General survivor's insurance.		
			Children's allowances. Sickness insurance (including employers liability for payment during sickness).		
New Zealand	Original - 1/09/1943	Age pension	NZ superannuation	No	This Agreement differs from Australia's other shared responsibility Agreements because both Australia's and New Zealand's social security systems are not contributory schemes. Customers paid under the Agreement are limited to the total pension income they would receive had they always been resident in the country where they are claiming a pension.
	2nd - 1/07/1949	Disability Support pension for the severely disabled.	Veteran's pension		
	3rd - 1/10/1987 4th - 1/04/1988 5th - 1/01/1995	Carer payment for partners of disability pensioners.	Invalid's benefit		
	Current - 1/07/2002				
Portugal	Original - 1/11/1992	Age pension	Old age pension	Yes	
	Current - 1/10/2002	Disability Support pension for the severely disabled.	Invalidity pension		
		Wife pension	Survivor's pension		
		Carer payment			
		Pensions payable to widows.			
		Bereavement Allowance			
		Additional Child amount			
		Double Orphan pension			

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Country	Commenced	Australian Benefits Included	Agreement Country Benefits included	Double Coverage (SG)* Provisions?	Comments
Slovenia	1/01/2004	Age Disability Support pension for the severely disabled.	Old age pension Invalidity pension Survivor pension	No	
Spain	Original - 3/06/1991 Current - 1/01/2003	Age pension Disability Support pension for the severely disabled. Wife pension Carer payment Pensions payable to widowed persons Double Orphan pension Additional child amount	Old age benefit Invalidity benefit Death and Survivor's benefit Unemployment benefit benefits for temporary incapacity for work.	No	We intend to review, as soon as mutually convenient, to include provisions to avoid double coverage for seconded workers (Superannuation Guarantee).
USA	1/10/2002	Age pension Disability Support pension for the severely disabled. Pensions payable to widowed persons Carer Payment - limited to partners of Age & Disability Support pensioners.	Retirement benefits Disability benefits Survivor benefits	Yes	

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