



15 February 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act Request**

Thank you for your email of 24 January 2024 which was transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) by Te Ara Ahunga Ora Retirement Commission on 25 January 2024. Your email has requested information about the social security agreement between the governments of New Zealand and Australia.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Please find my response to your request set out below.

- 1. Does New Zealand government department or Ministry of Social Development compensate the Australian government or pay the NZ Super via Centrelink to retired NZ citizens residing in Australia assuming they meet eligibility rules?*
- 2. Does MSD still fund the cost of retired NZ citizens residing in Australia in anyway, or does that burden fall to the Australian taxpayer?*

The New Zealand Government has a social security agreement with Australia which means that Australian and New Zealand residents who have lived, live, or are going to live in either country may qualify for a benefit or pension made up of payments from both countries. In other words, a client may receive payments made up of both a New Zealand Superannuation (NZS) and an Australian Age Pension payment (AAP). This allows our governments to share costs. If clients are paid or apply for a pension in their new country, they must apply for the equivalent pension from their home country.

The Ministry will pay NZS to clients who reside in Australia as long as they qualify for NZS and meet the qualifying age and other criteria for the AAP. Clients who qualify, will receive a portion of both payments depending on their time in each country. When clients reside in Australia and qualify for NZS, the Ministry will pay their NZS payments directly to them in a New Zealand or Australian bank account.

More information on the social security agreement with Australia can be found here:

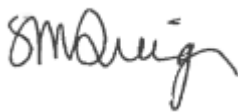
[www.workandincome.govt.nz/pensions/travelling-or-moving/social-security-agreements/australia.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/pensions/travelling-or-moving/social-security-agreements/australia.html).

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request for information relating to the payment of NZS in Australia, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**