



Residential Circumstances

Travelling Overseas

Overview

This Factsheet explains how your pension is affected if you travel or live overseas, and what you need to tell DVA if you are going overseas.

What happens to my service pension or income support supplement if I go overseas to live?

Generally speaking, service pension or income support supplement is payable while you are overseas even if your stay is permanent.

There is one exception to this rule. If you are a former resident of Australia who returns from overseas to claim a service pension or income support supplement, you must remain in Australia for at least twelve months before you can take your pension overseas. This requirement may be lifted in cases where unforeseen circumstances force you to return overseas.

What benefits are not paid overseas?

Only the basic rate of pension supplement can be paid to pensioners who live permanently outside of Australia. Veterans supplement, seniors supplement, rent assistance and remote area allowance cannot be paid to pensioners who live permanently outside of Australia.

If you are travelling outside Australia temporarily, your usual rate of pension supplement and seniors supplement may be payable for 13 weeks after departure from Australia. Veterans supplement and rent assistance may be payable for 26 weeks after departure from Australia.

If you are absent from the remote area in which you normally reside, remote area allowance continues to be payable for up to 8 weeks.

Claim for a foreign pension

If you are travelling to a country where you may have an entitlement to claim a foreign pension you are required to make a claim for that foreign pension while in the paying country.

If you have previously applied and been rejected because of location restrictions you are also required to apply while in the paying country.

Travelling Overseas, *continued*

What about my children?

If you move overseas permanently, no family tax benefit can be paid by the Family Assistance Office.

If you temporarily move overseas your dependent child will not be considered as being dependent unless:

- the dependent child is an Australian resident; *or*
- the dependent child has been an Australian resident and is living with you outside Australia; *or*
- the dependent child had been living with you in Australia and is living with you outside Australia.

If your child moves overseas for any period greater than 3 years, you will no longer be eligible for family assistance.

For more information refer to *Factsheet IS48 Children* or contact the Family Assistance Office.

What about health care overseas?

DVA will only cover health care expense for treatment of your war-caused disabilities. You will need to advise DVA prior to your departure of your intention to travel or live overseas if you wish to claim any health benefits while overseas.

Note: Any health care costs accepted by DVA will be limited to the costs usually associated with your care provided in Australia. Health care costs will not be met where your main reason for travel is to obtain health care overseas.

For more information refer to *Factsheet HSV65 Receiving Health Services while Overseas*.

How will I be paid when I am overseas?

If you are absent from Australia long-term or permanently, your DVA payments may be made *every four weeks* into your bank account in your country of residence.

The account you nominate must be:

- in your name, or it may be a joint account with another person; *and*
- capable of receiving payments from overseas by direct deposit or international wire.

Note: You may elect to maintain an account in Australia for your DVA payments. It is your responsibility to arrange access to your money. Payments into an Australian bank account are deposited every second Thursday.

For more information refer to *Factsheet PAT04 Payment to an overseas account*.

Travelling Overseas, *continued*

What if my partner remains in Australia?

If the payment of your supplement or an allowance is reduced or ceases because you go overseas, but your partner remains in Australia and is eligible for the supplement or allowance, it will continue to be paid to your partner.

Recommencement of payment on return from overseas

If payment of a supplement has ceased because of the length of your stay overseas, and on your return you continue to meet the eligibility criteria for the specific supplement, payment of that supplement will resume from the later of:

- the date of return to Australia; *or*
- the date you advise us of your return to Australia.

Obligations

When you are granted an income support pension, and periodically after that, you will be notified of your obligations. You will be required to tell us within 14 days (28 days if you live overseas or receive remote area allowance) of changes to your circumstances that might affect the rate of income support pension you receive or your eligibility to receive that pension. These obligations apply equally to trustees.

In relation to your travelling overseas, you would need to tell us within 14 days (28 days if you receive remote area allowance) of your departure, even if it's only for a short time.

Usually an overpayment of pension will not occur when you have met your obligations. However, sometimes even if you have met your obligations, an overpayment can occur because we have not been able to process the change before the next payday. We do our best to avoid this occurring, but it is not always possible. To provide you with your exact entitlement we are obliged to recover overpayments of pension where they do occur.

Note: You can provide the details by completing a *Form D0578 Notification of Overseas Travel*.

Oral advice

While we make every effort to ensure that you are given accurate information, it is important that you seek written confirmation of oral information or advice before making any major decisions based on that information.

We continually strive to improve the level of service you receive and make this request as an added safeguard for you.

Travelling Overseas, *continued*

Other Factsheets

Other Factsheets related to this topic include:

- *IS12 Pension Supplement & Allowances*
- *IS16 Pension Supplement*
- *IS17 Seniors Supplement*
- *IS18 Veterans Supplement*
- *IS48 Children*
- *IS50 Residency*
- *IS74 Renting and Rent Assistance*
- *HSV65 Receiving Health Services while Overseas*
- *PAT04 Payment to an overseas account.*

More information

All DVA Factsheets are available from DVA offices, and on the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au.

You can phone DVA for the cost of a local call on 133 254 or 1800 555 254 for country callers.

Use a normal landline phone if you can. Mobile phone calls may cost you more.

You can send an email to DVA at: GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au.

You can get more help from any DVA office.