

Proposed International Social Security Agreements with Australia and Bangladesh

Background:

Currently there are approximately 50,000 Bangladeshi Australian living in Australia. Majority are naturalized. Among the total population size more than 40 percent populations are 50 years of aged. These people regularly visit Bangladesh or have very strong connection with Bangladesh and always think in their retirement life they will live in Bangladesh. However, due to financial difficulty it may not happen for them. Therefore, most of the community people are thinking to have an International Social Security Agreements in between Australia and Bangladesh. In these circumstances, Australian government can take an initiative to justify and established such an agreement with the consultation of Bangladesh counterpart (Bangladesh High Commission for Australia).

What it is:

Australia has a number of agreements with other countries to share responsibility for social security payments. These agreements may help a person who has lived in Australia and one of these countries to claim certain payments from both countries. Agreements may also help a person continue to be paid certain payments when they move between agreement countries.

Counties have International agreement:

There are 29 countries already have international agreement that including:

Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America.

Negotiations for new agreements are under way with a number of other countries.

Australia's social security system

Australia's social security system is different to most other developed countries. Each person's pension is paid by the Australian Government out of general funds, rather than through contributions paid by individuals and employers into a social insurance fund. For this reason, Australian pensions are income and asset tested. The Department of Human Services (DHS) delivers Australian social security payments to individuals.

How does the agreement help you?

The agreement generally allows you to lodge a claim for payment from either country. It also allows you to add together your periods of residence in Australia and

periods of social security coverage in the Bangladesh, so you can meet the minimum requirements for payment.

Who can get an Australian payment?

If you live in Australia, the Republic of Bangladesh or another specified agreement country, you can lodge a claim for the Australian Age Pension in any of those countries.

To qualify under the agreement, you need to meet the following basic requirements:

Age Pension

You may be able to get Age Pension if:

- you are over the qualifying age
- The total period of time you have lived in Australia and/or your periods of coverage in the Bangladesh add up to more than 10 years.

What we need to do?

Leaders from the Bangladeshi community can start negotiate with political leaders to raise this issue into the parliament and also lobby with Bangladesh counterpart (Bangladesh High Commission for Australia). Therefore, initially we can form an International Social Security Agreements Support group to prepare a complete action plan.

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June 2013