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SOCIAL WELFARE ADMINISTRATORS CONFERENCE

AND

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT

AUSTRALIA, OCTOBER 1983



Department of Social Welfare

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dsW

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19 October 1983

MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE

INTRODUCTION

1. Herewith I submit my report on:

- (a) My attendance at the 1983 Spring Conference of Social Welfare Administrators, 11 - 13 October.
- (b) Discussions with Administrators from South Australia and Victoria, on the management of the welfare plans during the recent fire disasters.
- (c) Discussions with the Department of Social Security on the Reciprocal Agreement.

SOCIAL WELFARE ADMINISTRATORS' CONFERENCE

2. The major items discussed were:

- (a) Aboriginal fostering
- (b) Refugee children
- (c) Unemployment and welfare issues
- (d) Practicality of some uniformity in adoption legislation for the States and New Zealand.
- (e) National Maintenance Collection agency
- (f) Child Protection.

Aboriginal Fostering

3. The Conference had before it a working paper from a group of officials. Debate centred around - definition of aboriginality, discrepancies between policy and practice, preferences in placement for aboriginal children, selection criteria for foster parents, legislation, prevention and consultation with aboriginal communities.

4. The debate was most pertinent to recent developments in New Zealand and the Maatua Whangi programme. Essentially Administrators endeavoured to establish the groundrules for a base document which could be prepared for consultation with the various aboriginal groups and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

5. From a discussion of the issues arising, certain principles were agreed and these are summarised:-

- (a) That all State and Territory Welfare Departments adopt the definition of an Aboriginal (or Torres Strait Islander) as "a person of Aboriginal (or Torres Strait Islander) descent who identifies as an Aboriginal (or Torres Strait Islander) and who is accepted as such by the Aboriginal (or Torres Strait Islander) community".
 - (i) In the case of a baby or very young child, identification by either parent to be substituted for self identity (includes children where parents are not married to one another).
 - (ii) Where no parent/kin is available and there is reason to believe a child is Aboriginal, a nominated member of the Aboriginal (or Torres Strait Islander) community should be consulted.

Discrepancies Between Policy and Practice

- (b) That by 30 April 1984 each State and Territory, in consultation with appropriate Aboriginal communities and organisations, determine its policy and procedures in order to implement Aboriginal placement principles, and move towards a cohesive approach.
- (c) That the Standing Committee of Social Welfare Administrators approach the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to develop co-operative funding and resourcing strategies for Aboriginal communities and agencies in the implementation of Aboriginal placement principles.
- (d) That in the foster placement of an Aboriginal child a preference be given, in the absence of good cause to the contrary, to a placement with:
 - . a member of the child's extended family
 - . other members of the child's Aboriginal community who have the correct relationship with the child in accordance with Aboriginal customary law
 - . other Aboriginal families living in close proximity.
- (e) That selection criteria for Aboriginal foster parents be amended (by legislation if necessary) to:

- (i) recognise Aboriginal couples married according to the customs of their community;
 - (ii) recognise the prevailing social values and customs of the appropriate Aboriginal community;
 - (iii) consider the appropriateness of recognising de facto marriages for fostering purposes.
- (f) That in the adoptive placement of an Aboriginal child a preference be given, in the absence of good cause to the contrary (and after considering the wishes of the consenting parent to confidentiality and anonymity) to a placement with
- . other members of the child's Aboriginal community who have the correct relationship with the child in accordance with Aboriginal customary law
 - . other approved Aboriginal couples.
- (g) That selection criteria for Aboriginal adopting parents be amended (by legislation if necessary) to:
- (i) recognise Aboriginal couples married according to the customs of their community;
 - (ii) recognise the prevailing social values and customs of the appropriate Aboriginal community
 - (iii) consider the appropriateness of recognising de facto marriages for adopting couples.

Legislation

- (h) That each State in consultation with appropriate Aboriginal communities and organisations consider legislative provisions to enact the Aboriginal placement principle in State law. That following these consultations, consideration be given as to whether federal legislation is needed.
- (i) That, in reviewing the need for State legislation, consideration be given to the general placement of children and not solely to children under guardianship.

- (j) That any policy and legislative initiatives be implemented as ingredients in good child placement practice and not as substitutes for good child placement practice.
- (k) That each State advise the Council of Social Welfare Ministers in March 1984 of its intention in respect to legislative initiatives.

Prevention - Community Development

- (l) That the Standing Committee of Social Welfare Administrators seek undertakings from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Department of Social Security (Office of Child Care) on their policies and commitments to funding and otherwise resourcing Aboriginal child care and other preventive and community development programmes in Aboriginal communities and agencies.
- (m) That consultation should occur prior to care action being undertaken before subsequent placement decisions are made and before changes are made to the child's case plan.
 - (i) The purpose of such consultation is to ensure a significant Aboriginal influence on any decision made
 - (ii) Priority in consultation shall be (subject to an expressed desire of a parent for confidentiality):
 - . the child's extended family
 - . people who have a correct relationship with the child in accordance with local Aboriginal customs
 - . recognised Aboriginal agencies.
- (n) That each welfare department and the respective State and Territory Aboriginal agencies develop co-operative working arrangements, including negotiation and agreement on the roles and functions of both the department and the agency(ies).

Aboriginal Staffing (Recruitment)

- (o) That States and Territories recognise the special skills and knowledge that Aboriginal people can bring to community welfare positions within welfare departments and that:

- (i) recruitment policy and practice not rely on academic qualifications where appropriate experience and skills are demonstrated by the applicant
- (ii) regardless of the source of funding, there should not be a recruitment policy where Aboriginal people are employed at a lesser rank or status than equivalent non-Aboriginal workers
- (iii) promotional prospects for staff without academic qualifications should be reviewed by the employing authority.

Staff Training and Development

- (p) That each State and Territory welfare department:
 - (i) provide training and discussion programmes for all staff working with Aboriginal children on the principles, policies and procedures of Aboriginal child placement;
 - (ii) provide training and discussion programmes for staff involved in these matters on Aboriginal culture, family networks and customary law.
- (q) That Aboriginal people be involved in the planning, organisation and implementation of the recommended staff training and discussion programmes.
- (r) That each State and Territory welfare department:
 - (i) support and/or initiate programmes and cadetships for the training and development of Aboriginals within welfare departments and in tertiary institutions;
 - (ii) provide training and discussion programmes on welfare and welfare management issues with Aboriginal staff and staff of Aboriginal agencies and other community bodies;
 - (iii) support and/or provide relevant management training, in conjunction with Aboriginal agencies and tertiary institutions for Aboriginal community bodies;

- (iv) recognise the possible dilemmas of Aboriginal staff members in relation to child placement decisions, customary law and tribal alliances, and provide the necessary support for such staff.

Refugee Children

6. Of particular concern was the matter of dealing with resettlement of "unaccompanied" children under refugee programmes, for example Kampuchean refugees.

7. I was interested to obtain guidance on the matter of guardianship, financial assistance for unaccompanied children, any problems so far identified and the matter of placement.

8. It seems that in the main refugees under the age of 18 years who come to Australia unaccompanied by a parent or other guardian are automatically wards of the Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs under the provisions of the Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act 1946. The Minister has delegated his power as guardian to Directors of Child Welfare in all States and Territories.

9. The above wards are entitled to receive a maintenance allowance from the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. This is either \$27 a week for those living in private accommodation or \$36 a week for those living in hostels approved by the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. They are also entitled to receive other Commonwealth means tested payments such as secondary students assistance for those in Year 11 or 12 (approximately \$950 p.a.). They may qualify for assistance provided by their State or residence. They also receive double orphans pension and normal family allowances are paid to the individual or organisation caring for them.

10. One problem which has arisen is concerned with young refugees who come to Australia with a parent or guardian. They do not become wards of the Minister, are not entitled to the maintenance allowance or to double orphans pension. If they subsequently separate from the parent, sponsor or relative they are termed detached minor refugees with the same needs as the unattached refugees but not the same entitlements.

11. The above children of either group may be accommodated in private homes with Australians, Kampucheans or other Indo-Chinese, in hostels, boarding schools or in group houses. The last mentioned is becoming more popular in some parts of the country and really means providing a Government house to four or more refugees preferably with one older person in residence who is more familiar with Australian conditions.

Unemployment and Welfare Issues

12. At the 1983 Annual Conference of Social Welfare Ministers it was resolved that Commonwealth and State Departments meet to consider joint policies and strategies for responding to the welfare needs of the unemployed. The Conference discussed a report of this meeting and also a New Zealand paper on its various programmes aimed at meeting the welfare needs.

13. Administrators felt that there should be improved composite information about assistance available for unemployed people. It was agreed that this information should:

- (a) benefit unemployed people themselves and those working with them
- (b) provide "baseline" information about the nature and scope of programmes available
- (c) focus on youth
- (d) give special attention to information for immigrants and Aborigines.

14. However Administrators felt there was need for more than just co-ordination of information. They argued for greater co-ordination between the various agencies meeting the welfare needs of the unemployed. Although it is more of a problem in Australia than in New Zealand there are lessons for us, if we are to recognise a welfare need early and meet it. Some of the issues are:

- (a) Not all of the unemployed have a welfare need.
- (b) At some point, however, a review of each beneficiary is necessary - probably around 8 weeks.
- (c) Those undertaking these reviews, i.e. Social Security and Labour should have a common appreciation of what is available to meet the needs arising.
- (d) The unemployed should have access to at least 1 agency where information regarding the various programmes including education and training can be authoritatively given.
- (e) Special action was required for unemployed children in care but youth generally did have a claim also for readily available information on the options open to them.

Practicality of some uniformity in adoption legislation for the States and New Zealand

15. The Conference discussed the question of whether uniformity of adoption legislation was desirable and if so then what steps should be taken to ensure this is developed.

16. Though no firm decision was taken on the issue at this conference there seemed to be consensus that uniformity of legislation may not be necessary let alone desirable. However, there was consensus that it may be possible and desirable to agree on certain minimum key elements which should be uniform throughout the States and Australia.

17. Areas of similarity among the States seemed to be:-

- (a) Subsidised Adoption is available in several States already.
- (b) Relative Adoption All States seem to be moving towards guardianship/custody instead of adoption. Those with Supreme Court legislation can already implement this readily.
- (c) Spouse Adoption South Australia has provision for only the spouse to adopt but there are difficulties with the issue of a birth certificate. Other comments as for relative adoption.
- (d) Registration Board vary between States and it is related to whether private agencies operate in conjunction with the Statutory Board.
- (e) Minimum time before consent can be taken varies between three to seven days already and therefore the Victorian Law Reform Commission's recommendation of ten days has no major impact.
- (f) Revocation of consent is also variable from whichever is the earlier of the date an Adoption Order is signed or 30 days, to 30 days. The Victorian Law Reform Commission is recommending twenty five days with the possibility of a fourteen day extension.
- (g) Revocation of consent when an agency reconsiders its plan to adopt is a new concept recommended by the Victorian Law Reform Commission.

- (h) Notifications to natural parents being required is a new concept but primarily effects practice only.
- (i) Dispensation of consent The Victorian Law Reform Commission introduces new grounds in Victoria but there are already some variations in other states. The use of dispensation provisions also varies.
- (j) Religious specification on consent All States have this currently and the Australian Law Reform Commission will move Victoria out of line in a strict level sense.
- (k) Criteria to adopt There is considerable variation both in practice and the degree to which criteria are included in legislation and regulations. States work co-operatively to reduce the impact on citizens who move between States.
- (l) Applicant Appeal Mechanisms vary from internal appeal to an Appeal Board to court review.
- (m) Discharge of Adoption Order Similar grounds exist between States although the Victorian Law Reform Commission is recommending reversion to the legal status occupied before a consent is signed when an Adoption Order is discharged.

18. Areas of significant dissimilarity seemed to be:-

- (a) Additional category adoption (i.e. continuing legal relationship and/or access). If introduced, Victoria will be the only State to legislatively enable this form of adoption. The effect of the Adoption Order will basically be the same as any other States in that the rights of the adoptive parents are superior to natural parents. Other States will need to recognise the condition of a Victorian Order. There may be problems of enforcement of conditions when a party moves interstate and other States could be asked for case work services related to this.
- (b) Access to the original birth certificate by adoptees will, if introduced, make Victoria the only State with this provision. Because of the strong lobby from the adoptees and natural parents, other States could receive

considerable pressure to incorporate this into their legislation. It should be noted, however, that several States have already established Contact Registers and are active in their follow up. Adoptees are therefore already experiencing different legislation and practice depending on which State they are adopted in. If access by a natural parent to identifying information about an adult adoptee is introduced in Victoria, this will be a major legislative and practice change.

- (c) Witnesses/taking consent Establishing greater judicial participation in consent taking will be a departure from other States. The Victorian Law Reform Commission recommends that in taking consents for Victorian children from parents who are interstate Victorians, procedures should apply where possible although consents taken in accordance with the laws in their States will be accepted.
- (d) Putative father to be required to consent in defined situations States currently do not require a putative father's consent except for South Australia where Family Relationship Act requires his consent when he is mentioned as father and acknowledges paternity, or he is "judged" to be the father. If introduced, the putative father's consent will be required in defined circumstances (cohabitating during conception, signed Registration of Birth, signed acknowledgement of paternity, named in Court Order as father) and notification enabling him to seek to establish paternity will be required when his identity becomes known. This is a major change to the rights of putative fathers and is in accordance with current social developments.
- (e) Inter-country adoption States currently have legislative similarity because there is minimal legislation about inter-country adoption. It is largely a practice based area with considerable State variation. Introducing legislation will place Victoria in a different position to other States and could exacerbate the differences and confusion in this area. On the other hand, legislation to facilitate and regulate inter-country adoption, in and out of Australia, is needed.

- (f) Jurisdiction The Victorian Law Reform Commission has recommended that adoption matters be heard by Family Court. This would be similar to Western Australia but different from other States which have administrative, quasijudicial and court jurisdiction (superior and lower). The Victorian Law Reform Commission also recommend that the Victorian court have jurisdiction to hear matters where there is sufficient connection between the parties irrespective of domicile and residence, so that families are spared technical jurisdictional problems between States.

19. The Conference set up a working party to be chaired by the Director-General, Tasmania to identify what key elements were necessary for uniform legislation. I was asked for New Zealand to participate. I said I would prepare a position paper but would confirm later whether we would attend after explaining the New Zealand Justice Department responsibility for legislation. I will confer with the Secretary of Justice on the extent to which we should be involved but with free movement between New Zealand and Australia there does seem to me to be advantages in having reasonable commonality of approach to adoption legislation. This matter is also most certainly to be raised at the next Council of Ministers meeting.

National Maintenance Collection Agency

20. Problems relating to the current Australian maintenance assessment and enforcement arrangements were discussed.

21. I tabled a report on the New Zealand arrangements and related problems. Reciprocity on maintenance and liable parent contribution is not worth pursuing at this point. The Australian Attorney-General's Department is undertaking an examination of maintenance collection and enforcement procedures including the possibility of a national maintenance agency. This inquiry is expected to report before the end of the year.

22. The report will be circulated in time for comment to be prepared for the Ministers Conference at Perth and depending on the approach being recommended there may well be grounds for reciprocity and enforcement in New Zealand and Australia. In the meantime we should review the difficulties in enforcing maintenance in Australia.

Child Protection

23. The Conference discussed a report "Responsibility for Service in Child Abuse and Child Protection" - the Lawrence Report. The report is the result of

an inquiry commissioned by the New South Wales Minister on the case of Paul Montcalm. The boy at 10 years of age died in his home in a fire allegedly lit by his mother. She was subsequently charged with his murder.

24. The report discusses whether responsibility for child abuse cases should be shifted to Health Commission. The report comes down against this for the following reasons:-

- . The services would become medically dominated.
- . The problem of child abuse would be seen too much in terms of individual cases only, educational and broader intervention strategies being neglected.
- . 'Sickness' models would predominate.
- . Psycho-social aspects would be neglected.
- . There would not be a continuum with general family support services.
- . The help of the health sector can be enlisted without it having the prime responsibility.
- . Where court action is taken to protect children, the relevant authority will continue to be the Department of Youth and Community Services.

25. There are 20 detailed recommendations among the most major being:

- . Each Community Welfare Office of the Department should employ professionally qualified staff to take responsibility for case identification, case assessment and case treatment in all cases of child abuse or suspected child abuse.
- . The most relevant qualification for child abuse casework in a Community Welfare Office is social work because of the relative breadth involved in social work's frame of reference, compared with that of other professional disciplines.
- . People with other professional qualifications such as in clinical psychology and community nursing, should, however, also be employed in each Community Welfare Office, if such services cannot be readily attained by working collaboratively with other agencies. They need to work in the closest collaboration

with the social work staff, with respective professional roles and responsibilities clearly determined.

- . Consideration should be given to the appointment of appropriately qualified case aides to undertake useful, but limited, tasks under the supervision of the professionals.
- . To keep the Department's responsibilities within reasonable bounds, and to utilise fully professional resources of the community, fullest use should be made of designating professionals in other agencies as prime workers in child abuse cases. This should only be done, however, if a Departmental professional is acting as the Case Co-Ordinator.
- . Consideration should be given to the possibility of developing purchase for service arrangements to ensure access to relevant non-government or even other government services which could be better provided under an auspice other than the Department's.
- . All child abuse notifications to Montrose, including those involving after-hours crisis intervention, should be handled by professionally qualified staff.
- . The Central Index should be maintained as a tool for case identification, planning and research, but only if it is accurate and up-to-date, it reflects adequate professional assessment and judgement of what are 'at risk' situations, it uses modern methods of data retrieval, and cases can be identified by more than just a name.

26. Administrators were concerned at the matters raised in the report and the increasing complexity and demands of child abuse cases. Each State and New Zealand is to provide information on latest legislative and administrative developments for discussion with Ministers at their March meeting.

27. I believe the Lawrence report should be referred to the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse for its study and advice. Also I shall arrange for a study to be undertaken of the case by a departmental team for subsequent report to you.

FIRE DISASTERS

28. The fires in Victoria and South Australia on Ash Wednesday this year pointed up many points for welfare administrators:

- (a) In Victoria the approach on day 1 involved a convoluted chain of command, a complex process, confusion and as a result the welfare services self activated.
- (b) There must be 1 management centre, an easy to follow process, delegation to the point of action and not to a central point.
- (c) Provision of immediate cash and welfare service by locals for locals.
- (d) Re-constitute communities and set up and support local Government facilities quickly. People turn to local Government so that it is important to set up a local community structure as a focus and to which people affected can relate.
- (e) Local District Welfare Officers can provide a focal point but in large disasters where whole communities are totally disrupted the service must provide assembly centres as well.
- (f) Assembly centres are initially a "1 stop shop" for - registration, accommodation, clothing, utilities, food, child minding, insurance, social security and courier services. Must take care to avoid "double shopping".
- (g) Public appeals. Where there is a large amount of funds without a criteria for giving, normal Civil Defence payments criteria are inadequate. Capital payments based on equity rather than need e.g. \$1,000 to families \$1,500 with property loss, and grief payments for loss of spouse.
- (h) Need for staff approach to giving to change to meet the circumstances.
- (i) Material aid in form of goods clogged the system and diverted busy officials and helpers in decisions on holding and supply when most of the goods were never used.

- (j) The process for getting clothing and services was slow - "Give money not goods" is necessary in any appeal for disasters of this magnitude.
- (k) Slowness in the welfare system reacting created suspicion and led to social problems of looting and stealing.
- (l) Need to follow different approach with farmers. Links with Agriculture Department were not strong and took a long time to crank up. The welfare system had to adapt to the needs of farmers to put their farms first.
- (m) People wanted to get back to their properties. There was a need therefore for temporary on site accommodation such as caravans.
- (n) Welfare system is still dealing with problems 6 months after the disaster.
- (o) Training of staff to respond and allocation of resources to welfare civil defence was inadequate. Slowness to move in early stages created problems later.

29. The Australian experience has highlighted the need for me to monitor from time to time the Department's state of readiness to react to a disaster. I believe there ought to be some local training and awareness initiatives which ought to be carried on 2 or 3 times a year so that staff are aware of the role they have to play.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRALIA

30. I discussed the points at issue between the two countries, as expressed in the exchange of memoranda between Mr Ayers and myself on 5 October, copy attached, on Friday 14 October in Canberra. Mr Absolum, Deputy High Commissioner attended the talks with me.

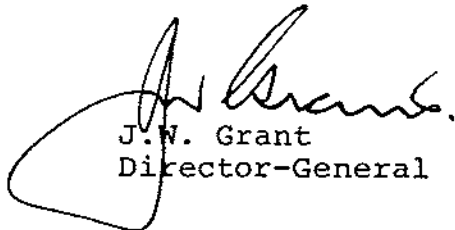
31. Attached is an agreed list of issues. It will be seen that the first item deals with revision of the existing agreement on the basis that residence in one country can be regarded as residence in the other country for the purposes of social security.

32. This was a considerable point. In other words, the basis of reciprocity between the two countries will continue to be residence.

33. It is proposed now that Australia will send two officials to New Zealand for further talks,

provided the Ministers agree, to take each item to a level of detail which could form the basis of a revision.

34. If you agree, I shall confirm with the Director-General in Australia that the talks can proceed to the next level of detail.



J.W. Grant
Director-General

TO: Mr J. W. Grant, Director-General (DSW, New Zealand)
FROM: Mr Ayers, Director-General (DSS, Canberra, Australia)

I refer to correspondence between our Ministers concerning our reciprocal agreement. Senator Grimes suggested we should exchange a list of topics of interest to discuss when we meet next week.

I suggest the following:

- (a) changes to New Zealand domestic legislation subsequent to the introduction of general portability by Australia in 1973 have relieved New Zealand of its obligations under the existing reciprocal agreement to pay its pensions to some former Australian residents;
- (b) although the agreement provides that each country should continue payments in temporary absence in the other for periods of up to 6 months, changes to New Zealand's domestic legislation have restricted its payments to 13 weeks and this has caused considerable difficulty for some New Zealand residents temporarily in Australia;
- (c) consideration might be given to coverage by the agreement for various benefits introduced by either country since 1949, such as Australian supporting parents benefit or New Zealand domestic purposes benefit, double orphans pension and handicapped child allowances etc.;
- (d) the agreement does not include effective measures concerning the recovery of overpayments;
- (e) the agreement needs updating on many less important matters. These include both matters affecting entitlement under the agreement (e.g. treatment of residents in external territories) and purely technical drafting issues (e.g. Australian child endowment referred to in the agreement as the family allowance);
- (f) the agreement has insufficient provisions for exchange of information on individual cases.

I suggest we discuss these matters on the morning of Friday 14 October 1983. We can confirm arrangements after you arrive.

I appreciate that after our discussions there will be a need for follow up discussions between officers closer to operational processing.

Mr Ayers
Director-General (Canberra)

5 October 1983

FROM: Mr J. W. Grant (Director-General, DSW, New Zealand)
TO: Mr Ayers (Director-General, DSS, Canberra, Australia)

I refer to correspondence between our Ministers concerning our reciprocal agreement. As suggested by Senator Grimes my Minister agreed that we should exchange a list of topics of interest to discuss when we meet next week.

I suggest the following:

- (a) Relationship between non means tested national superannuation and Australian age pensions.
- (b) Australians qualifying in New Zealand are granted full national superannuation provided there is entitlement to any Australian age pension.
- (c) Applying income test to all Australian age pensions in 1984 will:
 - (i) strengthen the financial advantage to Australian claimants in terms of (b) compared with their entitlement in Australia;
 - (ii) increase the number of New Zealanders ineligible for Australian age pensions or entitled to only a reduced pension.
- (d) Amending or repealing of Section 14 to enable "topping up" of portable Australian age pension. The see saw effect on the income tested pension.
- (e) The question of whether unemployment benefit should be retained within the provisions of the agreement.
- (f) The question of whether sickness benefit should be retained within the provisions of the agreement.
- (g) The question of whether benefit for solo parents should be included.
- (h) Inclusion of benefit for orphans.
- (i) Inclusion of means test free allowance for severely handicapped children.

5 October 1983

AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
NEW ZEALAND (15 April 1949)

AGENDA FOR PROPOSED MEETING (New Zealand, 12-16 December 1983):

1. To examine revision of the existing agreement on the basis that residence in one country can be regarded as residence in the other country for the purposes of the agreement.
2. To consider the appropriate treatment to be afforded under the agreement to persons moving temporarily and permanently between the two countries.
3. To examine methods of appropriately accommodating the means (income and/or assets) tests applied by either country to pensions/benefits covered by the agreement.
4. To consider whether or not section 14 of the New Zealand Social Security (Reciprocity with Australia) Act should be amended.
5. To examine whether unemployment and sickness benefits should continue to be covered by the agreement.
6. To consider whether pensions/benefits not covered by the current agreement should be brought within the scope of the agreement (eg. supporting parents benefit/domestic purposes benefit; double orphans/benefit for orphans; handicapped child's allowance/allowance for severely handicapped children).
7. To devise appropriate measures for the recovery of overpayments of pensions/benefits.
8. To consider the provision of necessary authority for the mutual exchange of information between administrations necessary for the proper computation and payment of pensions/benefits.
9. To consider further matters relevant to the entitlement of persons under the agreement (eg. the treatment to be afforded to residence in external territories).

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10. To otherwise update the technical drafting of the agreement having regard to legislative amendments by either country since the agreement was negotiated.

CANBERRA
14 October 1983

Date Due

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