



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Ms Kristiina Selgis
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Dear Ms Selgis

On behalf of the Competent Authority for the *Agreement between Australia and the Republic of Estonia on Social Security* (the Agreement), we are writing to inform you of changes to Australian Proof of Life arrangements, which may affect some Australian pension recipients living in your country. Please note, these changes are reflected in Australia's domestic legislation and do not change the scope of the Agreement or require an amendment to the Agreement.

Since 20 December 2019, recipients of the Australian Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, and Carer Payment, who are aged 80 years and over and have been residing overseas for at least two years, are required to complete a Proof of Life certificate every two years to continue to receive their pension. This Proof of Life certificate must be certified by an authorised certifier. A range of different classes of persons are authorised under Australian law to certify a proof of life certificate, including doctors, lawyers, police officers, notaries public and Australian consular officials.

These arrangements have now been updated to also allow officials of an overseas pension agency (including the Competent Institutions and Liaison Agencies under the Agreement), or a local or regional government authority, to certify a Proof of Life certificate. This will provide greater choice for Australian pensioners living overseas and make it easier for them to comply with their Proof of Life obligations.

Additional information about the Australian Proof of Life arrangements can be found on the Services Australia website at www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/proof-life-compliance-reviews-if-youre-older-80-and-live-overseas. If you would like further clarification on the changes noted in this letter, please contact us at internationalpolicy@dss.gov.au.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to assist pensioners from both of our countries.

Yours sincerely

Residency and International Payments
International Payments and Compliance Branch
Australian Government Department of Social Services

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