



**NEWSLETTER - CONSULATE OF MALTA
IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Frank Scicluna - Hon. Consul

**CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER
Number 2**

Hon Consul Frank Scicluna OAM JP

January/February 2013

Important news! –SCHOOLKIDS BONUS

If school expenses are weighing you down, the Schoolkids Bonus can help lighten the load. It replaces the old Education Tax Refund and it is simple: there's no need to collect receipts or claim it through your tax.

Each year, eligible families and students will receive:

- **\$410 a year for each primary student** (\$205 paid in January and \$205 paid in July)
- **\$820 a year for each secondary student in** (\$410 paid in January and \$410 paid in July).

The first payment (\$205 for a primary student and \$410 for a secondary student) will be made by [Centrelink](#) Link to external website or the [Department of Veterans' Affairs](#) Link to external website, directly into your bank account, in January 2013.

To receive the correct Schoolkids Bonus payment in January 2013, Centrelink customers must check and update their details by **31 December 2012** if:

- you are or your child is starting primary school or secondary school in 2013
- your child's care arrangements or any other details have changed
- you are or your child is finishing secondary study in 2012.

You can update your details through [Centrelink Online Services](#) Link to external website.

If none of the above applies to you, but you or your children are in primary or secondary school and you are eligible for Schoolkids Bonus, it will be paid to you automatically without the need to contact Centrelink

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CENTRELINK TO MALTESE/AUSTRALIANS WHO RECEIVE A PENSION FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

QED TIPPJANA LI SSIEFER MALTA GHALL-BTALA?

Malta hija parti mill-Ftehim Internazzjonali tas-Sigurta' Socjali (International Social Security Agreement) allura dawn huma ir-regolamenti l-godda li jaffetwawna lilna l-Maltin.

Mill-1 ta' Jannar 2013, dahlu regoli godda dwar id-dhul tal-pagamenti tal-Gvern Awstraljan waqt li tkun barra l-Awstralja. Dawn ir-regoli jistghu jolqtuk jekk tigi lura l-Awstralja u mbaghad terga' titlaq. Il-perjodu massimu li ser tkun tista' tircievi l-bicca l-kbira ta' beneficcji tas-sigurta' socjali u tal-ghajnunata tal-familja ser jitnaqqsu minn 13-il gimgha ghal sitt gimghat.

Jekk tircievi wiehed minn dawn il-pagamenti Awstraljani li gejjin, int tista' tibqa' tircievih ghal dejjem waqt li tkun barra l-Awstralja, imma l-ammont li tircievi jista' jonqos wara sitt gimghat :

- Age Pension
- pagamenti skont ftehim internazzjonali tas- sigurta' socjali, u
- Disability Support Pension, Wife Pension u
- Widow's Pension (skont certi cirkustanzi).

L-ammont ta' Pension Supplement (Suppliment tal-Pensjoni) li tircievi ser jonqos ghar-rata bazika wara sitt gimghat jew meta titlaq jekk ser thalli l-Awstralja ghal kollox.

I-rata tal-pagament tieghek tista' tinbidel jekk int tibqa' barra l-Awstralja ghal aktar minn 26 gimgha.

Jekk int tircievi pagament Awstraljan skont ftehim internazzjonali tas-sigurta' socjali, int ser tkompli tiehu l-pagament tieghek ghal dejjem waqt li tkun fil-pajjiz tal-ftehim. Imma, jekk int thalli l-pajjiz tal-ftehim, il-pagament tieghek jista' jieqaf wara sitt gimghat.

Inti tista' tkompli tircievi l-pagament tieghek wara l-perjodu ta' sitt gimghat:

- jekk tircievi certi pagamenti Awstraljani u int qed tistudja kors approvat barra l-Awstralja bhala parti minn kors full-time Awstraljan, int tista' tkompli tircievi l-pagament matul il-perjodu tal-istudju tieghek.
- jekk tircievi Family Tax Benefit (Part A), int tista' tibqa' tkompli tircievi ir-rata bazika sa tlett snin, jew
- jekk diga tinsab barra l-Awstralja fl-ewwel ta' Jannar 2013, int mhux ser tkun milqut minn dawn ir-regoli l-godda sakemm tigi lura.

Ghal taghrif dwar ir-regoli l-godda mur fuq il-websajt <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/> jew cempel International Services (Centrelink) fuq **131 673** Mit-Tnejn sal-Gimgha mitt- 8.00am sal- 5.00 pm

ENGLISH VERSION: Changes to your payment if you leave Australia

If you are leaving Australia before 1 January 2013, the current rules will apply to your payment. Refer to your payment below to see how these changes may affect your payment.

To get your payment while outside Australia you must continue to meet the qualification rules for that payment. You will also have to tell us about any changes in your circumstances while you're away.

The information provides a guide only. There are other circumstances which may also affect your payments while outside Australia. Contact Centrelink (details below).

Returning to Australia

Current rules:

In most cases you don't need to tell us that you have returned to Australia. For example, if you have returned after a short trip and your payment remained current throughout your absence, you don't need to call us.

You need to contact us when you return if you:

- are returning to live in Australia after living overseas
- get your payment under an international social security agreement
- have been asked to show proof of your reason for travel, or
- your payment or concession card stopped while you were away and it was not automatically restored when you returned.

[Pension payment rates while absent from Australia](#)

Current rules:

If you get a pension under a social security agreement, the amount that you get while you're outside Australia is decided by that agreement. Under most agreements, the amount that you get will reduce when you leave Australia. Malta is under the International Agreement of Social Security.

If you get your pension indefinitely while you're outside Australia, the amount you receive will generally be paid at a proportional rate after 26 weeks. This proportional rate is based on your 'Australian working life residence'.

'Australian working life residence' is the period of residence in Australia between the age of 16 and age pension age. You don't need to have worked or paid tax during this period. You just need to have been an Australian resident.

For example, a person can get a full means tested pension if they have an Australian working life residence of 25 years. People who have been a resident for less than 25 years will receive a smaller amount, based on how many years they have been a resident.

If you're planning to leave Australia so that we can let you know how your payments will be affected or for further information please contact Centrelink on the website www.humanservices.gov.au or telephone International Services (Centrelink) on **131 673** Monday to Friday 8.00am to 5.00 pm

ELECTION IN MALATA 9 MARCH 2013



Malta
Republic of Malta
Region: [Europe](#)

Description of government structure:

- Chief of State: President George ABELA
- Head of Government: Prime Minister Lawrence GONZI
- Assembly: Malta has a unicameral House of Representatives (*Il-Kamra Tad-Deputati*) with 65 seats.

Description of electoral system:

- The President is elected by parliament to serve a 5-year term.
 - The Prime Minister is appointed by the President to serve a 5-year term.
 - In the House of Representatives (*Il-Kamra Tad-Deputati*) 65 members are elected through a single transferable vote (STV) proportional representation system to serve 5-year terms.***
- *** Additional seats are given to the party with the largest popular vote to ensure a legislative majority.

Population:

- Population: 406,771 (July 2010)

Future elections

- Presidential - April 2014
- Parliamentary - March 9, 2013

THE CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

WISH YOU ALL

A VERY PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR 2013
