







# Are you travelling outside Australia?

## Payments while outside Australia

To get your payments or concession cards while outside Australia, you must continue to meet the eligibility requirements for each payment or concession card.

Depending on your payments or concession cards, there are different rules on how travelling outside Australia may affect you. When you leave Australia, your payments or concession cards may change or even stop. For information about payments and concession cards while you are overseas go to [servicessaustralia.gov.au/paymentsoverseas](https://servicessaustralia.gov.au/paymentsoverseas)

Check the website before you travel or call **131 202** to speak to us in your language.

## Tell us about changes to your circumstances

It is important that you tell us about any changes that may affect your payments or concession cards while you are overseas, as you would if you were in Australia. For example, you need to tell us if you start or stop a relationship.

## How to tell us about your travel

The easiest way to tell us about your travel plans is to use your Centrelink online account through myGov. You can add, view, update and remove your overseas travel details online at any time.

Register for a Centrelink online account through myGov before you leave Australia so you can tell us about your travel plans and access your letters and other services online while you are away.

Australia's immigration department will also tell us when you leave Australia.

If you do not have a myGov account, go to [my.gov.au](https://my.gov.au) to create an account. You will need to link Centrelink to your myGov account by selecting 'Services' and then the link icon next to Centrelink. You may need to answer some questions to make sure the correct record is linked to your myGov account.

If you choose to register your mobile number with myGov, make sure you can get messages from this number while overseas.

## Accessing Medicare while outside Australia

You will not be able to use Medicare services while overseas. If you get sick, you may have to pay for all your medical treatment. If there is a Reciprocal Health Care Agreement (RHCA) in place with the country you are going to, you might not have to pay for some things. These agreements cover the cost of medically necessary treatment for Australian residents travelling in some countries and do not replace private travel health insurance for overseas travel.

If you are going to a country with an agreement, take your current Medicare card with you. This can make the process easier if you do need medical treatment.

Reciprocal Health Care Agreements do not apply if you travel for the specific purpose of seeking medical treatment in RHCA countries.

For more information about Reciprocal Health Care Agreements, including if Australia has one with the country you are travelling to, go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/rhca](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/rhca)

## Taking or sending your medicines overseas

It is illegal to take or send Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medicines out of Australia that are not either for your personal use or the use of someone travelling with you.

For information about our payments and services while overseas, including Medicare, go to, [servicesaustralia.gov.au/australiansoverseas](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/australiansoverseas)

Check the website before you travel or call **132 011** to speak to us in your language about Medicare and taking medicines overseas.

## For more information

- Go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/paymentsoverseas](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/paymentsoverseas) for more information in English.
- Go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/yourlanguage](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/yourlanguage) where you can read, listen to or watch information in your language.
- Call **131 202** to speak with us in your language about Centrelink payments and services.
- Call **132 011** for Medicare and **131 272** for Child Support. Let us know if you need an interpreter, and we will arrange one for free.
- Visit a service centre.

**Note:** calls from your home phone to '13' numbers from anywhere in Australia are charged at a fixed rate. That rate may vary from the price of a local call and may also vary between telephone service providers. Calls to '1800' numbers from your home phone are free. Calls from public and mobile phones may be timed and charged at a higher rate.

## Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is intended only as a guide to payments and services. It's your responsibility to decide if you wish to apply for a payment and to make an application with regard to your particular circumstances.