

Restoration of Reversionary Pensions - Commonwealth Superannuation Act 1922



Australian Government
ComSuper

November 2007

As a result of superannuation reforms announced in the 2007 Federal Budget amendments have been made to the Commonwealth Superannuation Act 1922 to allow restoration of certain widow and widower pensions previously cancelled under that Act.

Who should read this?

- A spouse of a 1922 Act deceased pensioner, whose pension was cancelled, prior to 1976, upon their re-marriage.
- A spouse whose pension, previously cancelled, was only later partially restored due either to their being in necessitous circumstances or on the grounds that it was otherwise warranted.

How can I have my cancelled, or partially restored, pension fully restored?

You will need to complete a Benefit Application form and supply ComSuper with as much information you have regarding your original pension such as:

- a copy of letter/s from ComSuper, or the Australian Government Retirement Benefits Office (now known as ComSuper), or Department of Social Security (DSS) – now known as Centrelink.
- a copy of bank book or statement confirming date pension was ceased.

- a copy of your Marriage Certificate
- a copy of the member's Death Certificate

All relevant documentation must be certified as true and correct copies of the original.

Can someone act on my behalf?

If a family member or legal personal representative is helping you through this process, you are required to provide a letter of authority giving consent to this person to act on your behalf as either your Guardian or as your Power of Attorney.

How long will it take to process my application?

This will depend, in part, on how much information you can supply ComSuper at the time you apply. There could be delays in determining your eligibility should records and information prove difficult to locate.

Please note: ComSuper will process your application as soon as all supporting documentation is to hand. We request that you fully complete the form to reduce any delay in processing.

When will my pension commence?

It will commence with effect from 1 January 2008 or from the date the application is received at ComSuper – which ever is the latter.

The pension is prospective only and will not be backdated to the day it was ceased.

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How much will I receive?

Your new pension payment will be at the same rate you would have received, adjusted in line with the consumer price index (and if appropriate it's earlier equivalent) had your pension not been cancelled.

Will this effect any other payments I am receiving?

It may. You need to inform any agency that pays you a benefit that is income tested.

This payment, however, is not affected by other payments you may receive.

What if I die while the application is being finalised?

If you die while the application is being finalised ComSuper will pay a lump sum to your Estate. This amount will be based on the amount of pension that would have been payable for the period from 1 January 2008 (or the date of receipt of your application form if lodged after that date) through to your date of death.

Where can I find more information?

If you need any further information on reversionary pensions please contact ComSuper directly on:

Telephone: Customer Service Centre
1300 001 877

Fax: (02) 6272 9618

Post: PO Box 22
BELCONNEN ACT 2062

Visit: Unit 4 Cameron Offices
Chandler Street Belconnen
ACT 2602

ABN: 50 925 523 120

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Customer Service Centre
1300 001 877

FACT SHEET