**Fact Sheet – Cessation of Partner Allowance**

**What is happening with Partner Allowance?**

* Partner Allowance will cease completely from 1 January 2022.

**Changes from 20 March 2020**

* There were no changes for Partner Allowance recipients on 20 March 2020.

**Changes from 1 January 2022**

* When Partner Allowance recipients reach Age Pension age, they eligible to transfer to Age Pension, which is paid at a higher rate than Partner Allowance.
* All Partner Allowance recipients will reach Age Pension age on or before 1 January 2022 and no recipients will remain on this payment after the cessation date.

**Payment Background:**

* Partner Allowance is an income support payment for older partners of income support recipients born on or before 1 July 1955 who have no recent workforce experience.
* Partner Allowance has been closed to new entrants since 20 September 2003.
* Partner Allowance is a non-activity tested payment paid at the JobSeeker Payment rate. Partner Allowance recipients also receive Energy Supplement and may be eligible for other supplementary payments.
* As of September 2019, there were around 1,000 Partner Allowance recipients.

**Cameos:**

**1. Muriel**

* Muriel was born on 20 August 1954 and was granted Partner Allowance in 2000.
* Muriel continues to receive Partner Allowance until she reaches Age Pension age (66) on 20 August 2020.
* On this date, Muriel transfers to Age Pension and receives a higher rate of payment than she received on Partner Allowance.

**2. Agnes**

* Agnes was born on 1 July 1955 and was granted Partner Allowance in 2001.
* Agnes continues to receive Partner Allowance until the payment ceases on 1 January 2022, which is also the day she reaches Age Pension age (66 years and 6 months).
* On this date, Agnes transfers to Age Pension and receives a higher rate of payment than she received on Partner Allowance.