**Fact Sheet – Cessation of Widow B Pension**

**What is happening with Widow B Pension?**

* On 20 March 2020, Widow B Pension was ceased and existing recipients were transferred to Age Pension.

**Changes from 20 March 2020**

* Widow B Pension was ceased completely on 20 March 2020.
	+ All remaining Widow B Pension recipients, including those living overseas, were automatically transferred to Age Pension.
	+ There were no changes to recipient payment rates or eligibility requirements.
* A letter was sent out to all Widow B Pension recipients in the week of 16 September 2019, informing them of the upcoming changes to their payment.

**Payment Background**

* Widow B Pension was a payment for older widows who have lost the financial support of their partner and have limited means of support.
* Widow B Pension had been closed to new entrants since 20 March 1997.
* Widow B Pension was paid at the Age Pension rate. Widow B Pension recipients living in Australia also received Pension Supplement and Energy Supplement.
* As of September 2019, there were around 300 people receiving Widow B Pension.

**Cameos:**

**1. Stacey**

* Stacey was born on 6 September 1934 and was granted Widow B Pension in 1988.
* Stacey is currently living in Australia and received a letter from Services Australia (Centrelink) in September 2019 informing her of upcoming changes to her payment.
* Stacey will continue to receive Widow B Pension until the payment ceases on 20 March 2020.
* On this date, Stacey will automatically transfer to Age Pension at the same rate of payment as Widow B Pension.

**2. Gwendoline**

* Gwendoline was born on 10 June 1932 and was granted Widow B Pension in 1990.
* Gwendoline has been living overseas in France for over 20 years and received a letter from Centrelink in September 2019 informing her of upcoming changes to her payment.
* Gwendoline will continue to receive Widow B Pension until the payment ceases on 20 March 2020.
* On this date, Gwendoline will automatically transfer to Age Pension at the same rate of payment as Widow B Pension.