

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.