



Estonian Social Security Agreement simplifies arrangements for Australians

The Parliament's [Treaties Committee](#) gave its backing to the Australia – Estonia social security agreement in a [report](#) tabled today.

The Hon Kelvin Thomson MP, the acting Committee Chair, said the agreement will coordinate pension and superannuation payments between Australia and Estonia, simplifying the arrangements and avoiding double liability payments for people working in both countries.

“This agreement would mean an Australian living in Estonia who is eligible for an Australian pension or superannuation payment will now be paid that entitlement,” Mr Thomson said.

“Equally, Estonians in Australia who are eligible for either the Estonian old age or survivor pension will also be able to receive that pension.

“Australia currently has the sixth largest expatriate Estonian community in the world, with up to 1,000 Estonians in Australia expected to receive an Estonian pension in the first year.”

Mr Thomson noted that Australian employers were also set to benefit from the agreement as they will not have to make pension insurance payments in Estonia if they are paying superannuation to someone working temporarily in Estonia.

The proposed agreement with Estonia is the latest Australian bilateral social security agreement, of which 30 have so far been ratified. These agreements have become a useful tool in simplifying social security arrangements for Australians who are increasingly spending periods of their working lives in other countries.

The report is available on the [committee's website](#): <http://www.aph.gov.au/jsct> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4002.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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