



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Social Services**

The Hon Stuart Robert MP  
Committee Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Parliament House  
PO Box 6021  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Chair

**Social Security Agreement – New Zealand**

I am writing to provide the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT) with a response to the questions taken on notice during the public hearing of the Social Security Agreement with New Zealand on Monday 27 February 2017.

At the hearing, the Department of Social Services undertook to provide the JSCOT with the trend in customer numbers, and the number of customers receiving pension payments both within Australia and into New Zealand.

Data on the number of Agreement and Autonomous Pensions paid both into New Zealand and inside Australia is available over the past ten years from 2008-2017. Data is presented in both table form and a corresponding graphic at Attachment A.

I trust that this information is suitable and I thank the JSCOT for their consideration of the Social Security Agreement with New Zealand.

Yours sincerely

Anita Davis  
Branch Manager  
International and Means Test Policy

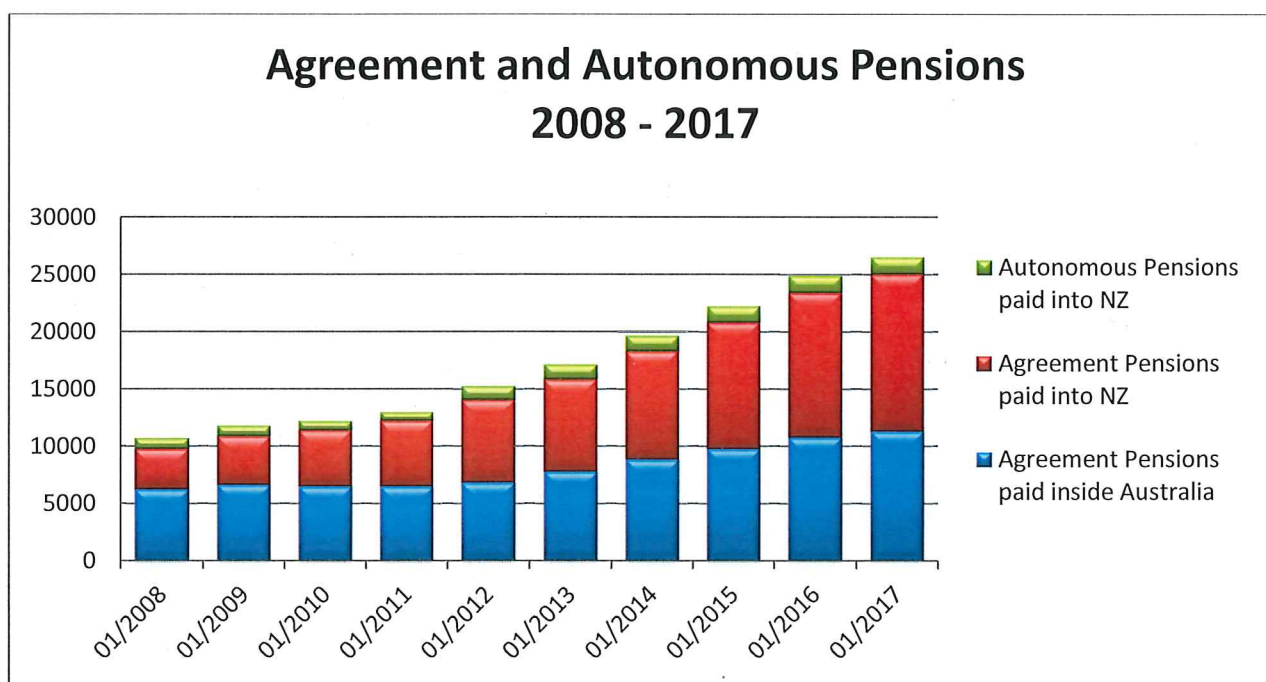
23 March 2017

## Attachment A

The number of Agreement and Autonomous Pensions paid both into New Zealand and inside Australia has increased steadily over the last ten years, but has remained proportionally-similar, at an average increase over this period of around 10% each year.

At January	Agreement Pensions paid inside Australia	Agreement Pensions paid into NZ	Autonomous Pensions paid into NZ	Total
2008	6249	3530	950	10729
2009	6635	4245	933	11813
2010	6497	4881	822	12200
2011	6486	5733	774	12993
2012	6819	7228	1215	15262
2013	7794	8038	1312	17144
2014	8846	9458	1352	19656
2015	9779	11051	1424	22254
2016	10763	12643	1501	24907
2017	11296	13754	1476	26526

Data source: Foreign Pension Statistics: Department of Human Services



It is important to note that minor amendments to Social Security Agreements do not, in themselves, result in significant changes in terms of the numbers of people who might qualify for a payment under an Agreement.

External factors, such as: the universal increase in the baby-boomer population reaching Age Pension age; the global financial position and its potential to impact migration patterns; or amendments within a country's domestic policy space, such as changes to income and assets tests, are just some examples of external factors that may impact future numbers of people who might qualify for a payment under a Social Security Agreement.