



Australia and New Zealand have a child support agreement. This means that if a child support application is made in New Zealand and the person named as the paying parent lives in Australia, they can be made to pay child support in New Zealand.

We can use their Australian income to work out their child support, and collection can be enforced in Australia.

Please read this factsheet if you are either:

- a custodian, and the paying parent lives in Australia, or
- a paying parent who lives in Australia.

How is the paying parent's child support worked out?

If we have accepted an application for a formula assessment we combine the paying parent's New Zealand and Australian income (converted into New Zealand dollars) and add an inflation factor to work out how much child support they should pay.

We use their New Zealand income from two years before the current year and their Australian income from the corresponding Australian tax year.

For example, for the 2009 child support year we use:

- any Australian income earned in the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, plus
- any New Zealand income earned in the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

A paying parent can also be assessed according to a New Zealand court order or a voluntary agreement.

How are overseas payments made?

Payments can be made from overseas by:

- a bankdraft in New Zealand dollars
- a personal cheque in Australian dollars
- telegraphic transfer
- credit card—go to www.ird.govt.nz/how-to/making-payments/childsupport

What if the paying parent does not pay?

If the paying parent owes child support, we can refer their case to the Australian Child Support Agency to collect the debt and their current child support.

What happens if the custodian moves to Australia to live?

If we receive written advice that the custodian is now living in Australia, we will stop their New Zealand child support. The paying parent's liability to pay New Zealand child support **ends on the day before we receive the written advice.**

For example, if the custodian begins living in Australia on 1 September and we are told in writing on 5 September, the paying parent's New Zealand child support ends on 4 September.

If the custodian still wants to receive child support, they need to apply to the Australian Child Support Agency.



For more help

If you are calling in New Zealand, please call us on 0800 221 221 between 8 am and 6 pm on weekdays.

If you are living overseas, please:

- call 64 9 984 2536 between 8 am and 5 pm (New Zealand standard time) on weekdays only, or
- fax us on 64 7 959 7602

If you would like more copies of this factsheet or any of our forms:

- Visit us at www.ird.govt.nz/childsupport/
- call INFOexpress (New Zealand only) on 0800 257 773 any day between 6 am and 12 midnight. Make sure you have your IRD number and the number or name of the factsheet or form handy.