



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS:

PM. No. 94/1972

PENSION AGREEMENT WITH ITALY

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon.

William McMahon, C.H. MP.

Agreement has been reached between the Australian and Italian Governments to allow Australian pensioners to continue to receive their pensions while in Italy.

The Prime Minister, Mr McMahon, announcing this today, said the agreement applied equally to people born in Australia and those born overseas, but it was expected to be especially welcomed by older people who wished to return to or visit their country of birth after living many years in Australia.

Mr McMahon said the agreement applied to age, invalid and widows' pensions. In many cases Australian pensions would be paid after a person had lived in Australia for twenty years. However, where the person became an invalid or widow pensioner while living in Australia, this twenty year period would not apply.

Corresponding Italian pensions can already be paid in Australia.

The Prime Minister said the agreement would add to the already strong relations between Italy and Australia. The two countries would look at the possibility of extending reciprocity into other areas of social services in the future.

Mr McMahon also announced that reciprocal agreements on pension portability also had been reached with the Governments of Greece, Turkey and Malta.

In each case Australian pensioners would be able to live in these countries and continue to receive pensions, and pensioners from these countries could continue to receive their homeland pension if they came to Australia.

CANBERRA,

5 November, 1972