



11 JAN 2019

Aaron

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Tēnā koe Aaron

Thank you for your query dated 2 December 2018 via the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) website about SuperGold Card eligibility. Your query was also referred to the Ministry from: Hon Tracey Martin, Minister for Seniors; the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment; and the Environment Canterbury Regional Council.

You ask why foreigners are allowed to have SuperGold Cards.

The social security system in New Zealand is residence based. As such, to be eligible for a SuperGold Card a person must meet the residency criteria.

A person is eligible to receive a SuperGold Card if they are:

- 65 years or over and legally and ordinarily resident in New Zealand;
- under 65 years and receive the Non-Qualified Spouse or Partner rate of New Zealand Superannuation (NZS) or Veteran's Pension;
- under 65 years and currently receive the Veteran's Pension.

"Ordinarily resident" means someone who is normally and lawfully resident in New Zealand and intends to stay here. Therefore, people who are in New Zealand on a temporary immigration permit (eg a visitor visa, a student visa or a temporary work visa) are not eligible for a SuperGold Card.

At this time there are no plans to change the SuperGold Card eligibility criteria.

When the SuperGold Card was developed, Ministers wanted the Card to have as wide appeal as possible. The simplest criterion was to make it available to all New Zealand residents over the age of 65 years.

The SuperGold Card is a discounts and concessions card, which operates with over 9,200 listed suppliers and over 14,000 outlets throughout New Zealand. It is these businesses that bear any costs relating to the scheme rather than the Government. The only cost to Government is through the provision of the free off-peak public transport concession.

In 2011, an agreement was made between New Zealand and the Australian state and territory governments that allows New Zealand SuperGold Card holders to use their card in Australia and Australian Seniors Card holders to use their card in New Zealand. The reciprocal agreement does not include public transport concessions.

It is also worth noting that around 95 percent of SuperGold Card holders are eligible through being granted NZS. In order to be eligible for NZS, applicants must be able to demonstrate a clear commitment to living in New Zealand through the residency and presence requirements. To be eligible for NZS, applicants must:


- have reached the age of 65 years;

- have been resident and present in New Zealand (or a country New Zealand has a social security agreement with) for no less than ten years since reaching the age of 20. This must include five years or more since reaching the age of 50;
- be ordinarily resident in New Zealand (or a country New Zealand has a social security agreement with) on the date of application.

These requirements apply to all. You can read more about New Zealand's social security agreements here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/pensions/travelling-or-moving/social-security-agreements/index.html.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I hope this information is helpful.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EB' followed by a stylized flourish.

Elisabeth Brunt
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services