



## British Pensions in Australia Inc.

ABN 42 186 383 389

[www.bpia.org.au](http://www.bpia.org.au)

### **Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting Held On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 11.00 am At Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney**

- Attending** There were approximately 45 Members present at the meeting.
- Apologies** Apologies were received from committee members Keith Bryers, Tony O’Conner, David Rumball and 12 other members
- Welcome** The Chairman welcomed those present and introduced the committee members for 2013/2014 who were present.
- Minutes of Previous AGM** The minutes of the 2013 AGM which was held on Friday 13th December 2013 were confirmed and adopted.  
Proposed by John Hadkinson and seconded by David Holland.
- Chairman’s Report** BPiA’s mission remains dedicated to achieving universal UK age pension parity worldwide. The plan to achieve this is that we continue to pursue the UK Government by way of a political advocacy campaign, by lobbying politicians in both the UK and Australia to support our claim for fair and equal treatment, by promoting BPiA and ICPB at every opportunity in the media and by seeking support from unions, senior and pensioner organisations in Australia and the UK.  
To achieve this we need to increase membership to accumulate funds for our advocacy campaign.  
A significant achievement has been the establishment of an All-Party Parliamentary Group in the UK Parliament who support our cause.  
Our contributors have increased by 2.95% to 11854 in 2014 but we need more to maintain the momentum of our cause.  
We have pursued Tony Abbott at CHOGM 2013 over the UK’s ignoring of the Commonwealth charter and we have pursued J Hockey and K Andrews over their failure to focus on the potential \$1 billion Australia’s budget benefit.  
During 2014, we have provided \$46,913 to the International Consortium of British Pensioners to assist in developing ICPB strategies and communications to UK politicians and to the media and trade unions in both the UK and Australia,  
I would like to thank all those who have renewed their membership, many with additional donations to our cause, the State co-ordinators who have worked to promote BPiA around Australia, the Committee members who have helped develop our strategies and the volunteers who have manned the Edgecliff office where they have maintained our data base and managed the mail.

Thank you all.

- Future Plans** We are approaching a critical time in our organisations campaign as we approach the 2015 UK General Election. Our issue will eventually be resolved by the removal of the offending regulation in the Social Security Benefits Up-rating Regulation 3, which requires bilateral agreement before our pensions will be indexed overseas. However, we cannot lose sight of the importance of funds required to maintain our campaign.
- Soon ICPB will be preparing 2015 strategies and it's budget for the year. We need to be seen among UK Parliamentarians and to achieve more UK media exposure and to intensify letter writing campaigns. Key issues that need to be publicised include the affordability of indexing our pensions, which will cost just 0.7% of the annual UK pension cost and the comparison with the £12 billion spent on overseas aid.
- We will also be stressing the unfairness and discrimination and lack of compliance of the UK Pensions Practice with International Laws, the lack of compliance with the commitment to equality and lack of discrimination on any grounds in the Commonwealth Charter.
- Per Edmund Burke in 1700s "Evil triumphs unless good men do something"
- Financial Report** The Chairman referred to the Annual Financial Reports which were attached to the 2013 minutes and showed our bank balance at November 16th 2014 as LCU \$11,015 and ING as \$5,6,590 or £36,500 approximately.
- It was proposed by John Hodkinson and seconded by David Holland that the annual accounts be accepted, and the motion was unanimously approved without a division.
- Committee** There are no new nominations for the committee and as all seven members of the committee have agreed to serve for a further year, they are therefore re-appointed.
- Honorary Auditor** No appointment.
- Any other business** There was no other business.
- Closing** The meeting closed at 12.45 pm.