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*Fair Play for British Pensioners in Australia*

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **AUSTRALIANS FALL FURTHER BEHIND AS UK GOVERNMENT CONTINUES ITS DISCRIMINATORY POLICY**

The UK has announced that UK State pension paid to people in the UK and for most pensioners living outside the UK will increase by 10.1% on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

However, pensions paid to people living in Australia, will remain frozen at the rate when it was first paid in Australia.

This discriminatory policy, which a UK government minister has described as illogical, contrasts with the pensions paid to people living in the Philippines, Turkey and many other countries. Pensioners in those countries receive their pensions at the same rate as pensioners living in the UK.

They receive the same annual inflation adjustment as people in the UK. People living in Australia don't.

Patrick Edwards, President of British Pensions in Australia Inc., a not-for-profit organisation that cares for British pensioners living in Australia cited the case of Patricia Coulthard, 101 years old whose pension is less than one-third of the standard UK pension after being frozen for many years. He said *"This egregiously wrong policy affects many Australian battlers struggling to get by on a pitifully small pension that they spent their life paying for"*.

**ENDS**

1<sup>st</sup> February 2023

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*About British Pensioners in Australia*

British Pensions in Australia Inc. (BPiA) is an incorporated not-for-profit volunteer association and a founder member of the International Consortium of British Pensioners. BPiA cares for both current and prospective recipients of British pensions living in Australia. BPiA campaigns for many thousands of British pensioners, recognising their right to a fair pension in return for the contributions they have made to the UK, both in terms of financial contributions to the National Insurance Scheme and their contribution to the economy of the UK.