



WHAT TO SAY TO YOUR FEDERAL MP

- Thank them for the opportunity to discuss the issue.
- Hand over two papers:
 - Frozen Pensions in a nutshell
 - Countries affected by the UK Government's frozen pensions policy.
- Explain this is an issue that affects Australians (**don't** use the word "expats"). The people affected are Australians.
- Tell him or her that we are aware that the Australian Government cannot change the policy. It is the prerogative of the UK Government, and we understand that. But the UK Government won't do anything unless the Australian Government forcefully and persistently makes known that the policy is unacceptable discrimination against Australians.
- An answer that over the past twenty years, the Australian Government has made known its displeasure at the policy many times is inconsistent with the answer to Freedom of Information request made by BPiA in 2021.
- An answer that it is a long-standing policy does not justify its continuation. There are many examples of long-standing policies that have been changed because they were no longer justifiable. For instance, women in New South Wales did not get the right to stand for parliament until 1918 and in Victoria until 1923. Did that make the situation prior to those dates morally acceptable?
- Ask him or her to stand up for Australians. This is a foreign government that is discriminating against Australians. It may be a friendly government in other respects, and we may share HM The Queen as Head of State. It may be a country with whom we have a shared history, but it is a country that is not doing the right thing by us. If it was a country other than the UK carrying on the discrimination, China perhaps, would Australia be paying the same obeisance as it is currently?

- It is not true to say that the countries where UK State Pensions are frozen are primarily Commonwealth countries. Commonwealth countries often have larger numbers of people receiving UK State Pensions but that reflects the close relationships between peoples of the Commonwealth. There are many more non-Commonwealth countries where pensions are frozen than Commonwealth countries.
- There is no logic in the way that recipients in some countries receive annual uprating of their pension, whilst recipients in other countries have their pensions frozen. The UK Government admits this as the following statement by Mr. Jeff Rooker (Minister of State, Department of Social Security) indicates:

“I have already said that I am not prepared to defend the logic of the present situation. It is illogical. There is no consistent pattern. It does not matter whether a country is in the Commonwealth or outside it. We have arrangements with some Commonwealth countries and not with others. Indeed, there are differences among Caribbean countries.”¹
- The UK State Pension is paid from one or more National Insurance Funds in the UK. These funds are in substantial surplus and the surpluses are forecast to increase. Paying Australians on the same basis that the UK Government is paying others does not by itself require an increase in taxation in the UK. For the UK Government to argue otherwise is just plain obfuscation.
- Wrap up by saying the current policy transfers part of the UK’s obligations to its workers to the Australian taxpayer. Why should this continue?
- Thank the MP for listening and for giving their valuable time.

¹ See [Hansard 13th November 2000](#):