



## British Pensions in Australia Inc.

ABN 42 186 383 389

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

### Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting

Held on 9th December 2015

At Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney

- Attending:** There were approximately 25 members present.
- Apologies:** From committee members Keith Bryers, Mike Goodall, Tony O'Connor, David Rumball and one other member
- Welcome:** The meeting commenced at 11.12 am.  
The Chairman welcomed those present and introduced the committee members for 2013 - 2014 who were present.
- Minutes of Previous AGM:** The minutes for the 2014 meeting, which was held on Monday 17th November 2014 were confirmed and adopted.  
Proposed by Andrew England and seconded by Tony Moore
- 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, and by seeking support from unions, senior and pensioner organisations in Australia and the UK.  
To achieve this we need to promote the International Consortium of British Pensioners and promote BPiA and ICBP at every opportunity available and an All Party Parliamentary Group at Westminster chaired by Sir Roger Gale (Con) was formed of parliamentary supporters from all parties to support our cause.  
To achieve our aim we need urgently to increase membership our funds to support our advocacy campaign run by PHA our UK media and political lobbyists which includes lobbying parliamentarians in the UK to seek support for our aims. This is especially important as Britain's policy is contrary to the Commonwealth Charter and stands alone among all the OECD countries.  
BPiA and CABP provided £100,000 for this campaign in 2014/2015.  
In concluding may I express my thanks to our members who by renewing memberships and by donations allow our work to proceed, to the State co-ordinators who work to promote BPiA's cause especially in WA, and our committee members and volunteers without whose time BPiA could not function.  
Thank you all for your sterling efforts in the past year.

**Financial Report:** The Chairman referred to the Annual Financial Reports which were attached to the 2014 minutes and showed our bank balance at 16<sup>th</sup> November 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 appointed.

**Honorary Auditor:** The chairman stated that Jenny Smith had agreed to continue as auditor and her assistance was very much appreciated.

**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”

**Closing** The meeting closed at 12.45pm.