



British Pensions in Australia Inc. P O Box 474 Edgecliff NSW 2027

ABN 42 186 383 389

Fair Play for British Pensions in Australia

www.bpia.org.au

Telephone 1300 308 353

email: membership@bpia.org.au

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended 30th June 2020

British Pensions in Australia Inc. (BPiA) is a not-for-profit association incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW).

Mission Statement

BPiA's objective is to obtain Fair Play for British Pensions in Australia.

Committee Members

The names of the Committee members at the date of this report are:

Brian Beaumont Owles (Chairman)

Francis Keegan

Cheryl Harvey (Secretary)

Gary Richards

Patrick Edwards (Treasurer)

David Rumball

Jim Tilley

Tony Walsh

Brian and Francis have indicated their wish to step down from their positions on the committee at the AGM

The Committee is looking to interested members to put their names forward to replace the retiring committee members. It will be particularly helpful for the committee to have more members from outside New South Wales.

Activities during the year ended 30th June 2020

BPiA works in conjunction with the Canadian Alliance of British Pensions (CABP) to lobby Ministers and Members of Parliament in the United Kingdom to end discrimination against people in our respective countries who receive British State Pensions. BPiA and CABP are members of the International Consortium of British Pensioners (ICBP). ICBP employs a lobbying and PR company in the United Kingdom, Tendo Consulting, to lobby on our behalf and to place newspaper articles and radio and TV stories in the United Kingdom in support of our objective. Tendo Consulting have been active on our behalf throughout the year despite the restrictions imposed on our activities due to Covid-19.

Boris Johnson took over from Teresa May as Prime Minister on 24th July 2019. Subsequently there was a General Election and he was returned with a larger majority. The uncertainty around Brexit was removed. We were hopeful that, with Brexit no longer an overwhelming distraction, we would have more chance of getting our message heard. Unfortunately, the Brexit issue was quickly replaced by the Covid-19 pandemic. We, and Tendo Consulting on our behalf, have not stopped pursuing our campaign with vigour.

In February, members of the committee met in Canberra with representatives of the team that will be negotiating the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Australia and the UK. Unfortunately, whilst they were sympathetic to our plight, they do not believe it is possible to make the discriminatory treatment of British pensioners in Australia a matter to be considered in discussions relating to the FTA.

Your committee has continued to press this matter with the Dept of Fair Affairs and Trading and in July made a submission via the Australia-UK FTA coordinator drawing attention to the estimated loss to the Australia economy as a result of lost foreign currency income due to the freezing of British State pensions.

In February 2020 the All Party Parliamentary Group on Frozen British Pensions (APPG), which is a cohort of MPs supportive of our campaign, was reconstituted. The Chairman of the APPG is Sir Roger Gale. The APPG was scheduled to meet in April but this has been deferred due to the restrictions imposed in response to Covid19. Tendo Consulting is in active discussion with Sir Roger Gale concerning our campaign.

We have always thought that CHOGM (Commonwealth Heads Of Government Meeting), held bi-annually, was an ideal forum for our situation to be discussed. At present, the Australian Government does not share this view. They have said that they see CHOGM as a means of bringing members of the Commonwealth together and not for criticising the policies of other Commonwealth countries. However, we believe this a selective stance and, as it is mostly pensioners in Commonwealth countries who are affected, we disagree with their approach. In April, it was announced that this year's CHOGM has been postponed indefinitely.

The committee is frustrated that our activities over the past year or so have been overshadowed by events outside our control such as Brexit, the General Election and the Corona Virus outbreak. However, we remain hopeful that that the equity of our case will eventually produce fruit. We will never give in.

The committee continued to meet during the lock down period. We have done this using Zoom and it has worked well. In fact, so well that we have agreed to continue using Zoom. This will save the cost of renting a room for our meetings and should permit increased participation by out-of-state committee members.

Operating Result

The result for the year was a useful surplus.

Membership income declined slightly during the year due to a fall in the number of members. The committee has commenced several initiatives to halt and reverse the decline in member numbers.

Our largest expenditure is our share of the lobbying and public relations expenditure in the United Kingdom. Because of the Covid 19 pandemic activities in the United Kingdom were attenuated for two months and this resulted in a lower cost for these months.

Outlook

We will continue to focus on pressuring the Government in London as we believe this is where the decision will ultimately be made to end the freezing of British State Pensions in Australia. Whilst we are assisted by sharing the cost of the work in the United Kingdom with our Canadian cousins (who, like us, suffer from having their pension frozen), if we are to do our best to get the changes that we want, we will necessarily incur more cost.

Because our income is reliant on membership dues and donations, our greater efforts in the United Kingdom will require an increase in the number of members.

Our activities in Australia will be directed at increasing membership numbers. To this end, we have committed to replacing our membership database with a programme with more flexibility and greater

capabilities. The new membership database will be integrated with our website, which is also being upgraded. The cost of this work has been provided for in this year's financial statements.

We are planning other initiatives to recruit more members. These initiatives will be announced once we are ready to implement them. In the meanwhile, each member can continue to help by recommending BPiA to their friends and neighbours.

Our administration activities are undertaken by a small group of dedicated volunteers. We hope members will join the committee in expressing our gratitude for their efforts.

The committee is also appreciative of you, our members, for the support you continue to give BPiA. The process of arguing for an end to the discrimination we face has taken a long time but our cause is just and we are confident we will eventually succeed.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the committee 16th September 2020

Brian Beaumont Owles

Patrick Edwards

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INCOME STATEMENT

for the year ended 30th June 2020

	30 June 2020	30 June 2019
INCOME		
Member subscriptions and donations	70,591	73,276
TOTAL INCOME	70,591	73,276
EXPENDITURE		
AGM Expense	324	
Bank charges	422	388
Communications	598	
Insurance	1,009	967
Marketing	192	
Membership database and website upgrade.	5,000	
Miscellaneous	47	234
Office rent	6,753	8,998
Office supplies and computing	397	1,297
Postage	1,413	1,372
Printing	5,193	5,817
Public relations	7,128	1,424
Share of ICBP expenses	39,089	49,754
Telephone	971	1,735
Travel	-	1,490
TOTAL EXPENSES	68,536	73,476
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	2,055	(200)

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

at 30th June 2020

	30 June 2020	30 June 2019
ASSETS		
Balance at bank	22,826	15,771
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	22,826	15,771
LIABILITIES		
Accrued expenses	375	375
Provision	5,000	
EQUITY		
Retained surpluses	15,396	15,596
Surplus (deficit) for the year	2,055	(200)
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MEMBERS FUNDS	22,826	15,771

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Summary of significant accounting policies

The committee has determined that BPiA is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on a modified cash basis and are based on historic costs.

Revenue

Receipts from members in the form of annual memberships and donations are recognised when received. No accrual is made for annual memberships that fall due prior to their receipt.

Income tax

BPiA is a not-for-profit entity and, as such, is not subject to Income Tax.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when BPiA has incurred but not paid a material expense or where the Committee has resolved to incur an expense.

Goods and services tax (GST)

BPiA is not registered for GST. All expenditure is stated inclusive of GST.

Fixed Assets

BPiA's only fixed assets are office equipment such as laptops and printers. These are expensed when acquired.

Employee entitlements

BPiA is staffed by volunteers. It has no employees.

Contingent liability

BPiA has a commitment to fund the ongoing activities of ICBP. At 30th June 2020, this amounted to an obligation to pay the equivalent of C\$3,500 per month (about A\$3,900 per month) with a three month notice period for ending the obligation.