



British Pensions in Australia Inc. P O Box 438 Gordon NSW 2072

ABN 42 186 383 389

Caring for British Pensioners in Australia

www.bpia.org.au

Telephone 1300 308 353

email: membership@bpia.org.au

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2023

British Pensions in Australia Inc. (referred to as “BPiA” or “the association”) is a not-for-profit organisation that helps people who receive a British state pension or will receive a state pension on reaching pension age.

BPiA assists people understand their entitlement to British state pension including the rules relating to National Insurance contributions and claiming state pension. We provide information at our website www.bpia.org.au, through our social media presence, through a telephone enquiry service available at 1300 308 353 and in response to emails and letters sent to us.

BPiA publishes a quarterly magazine “Fair Play” and a monthly newsletter is sent to all members with an email address.

We campaign to end the unfair discrimination against people entitled to British state pension who live in Australia, where the annual inflation adjustment to the rate of state pension does not occur.

Our strategy is to increase knowledge of the issue in Australia and to increase our membership numbers whilst lobbying in the United Kingdom for a change in British government policy.

BPiA is a member of the International Consortium of British Pensioners (“ICBP”) which represents British pensioners with frozen pensions worldwide.

Governance

BPiA is a not-for-profit association incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW) (“the Act”).

The association has adopted the model constitution as provided for in the Act. A copy of our constitution is available on the BPiA website www.bpia.org.au.

Responsibility for managing the affairs of the association lies with the BPiA committee. The names of the committee members at the date of this report are:

Colin Bloodworth (age 82), lives in Jakarta, Indonesia

Stuart Coleman (age 76), lives in Perth, WA

Patrick Edwards (age 76), President & Secretary, lives in Sydney, NSW

Garry Gordon (age 65), lives in Canberra, ACT

Jeff Gunningham (age 73), lives in Perth, WA

Jonathan Hobbs (age 62), lives in rural Queensland.

Brian Beaumont Owles (age 80), Treasurer, lives in Sydney, NSW

Tony Walsh (age 82), lives in Melbourne, VIC

A profile of each committee member with details of their experience and qualifications appears on the BPiA website www.bpia.org.au.

The committee meets monthly by Zoom. At the commencement of each meeting all committee members are required to confirm that they have no conflicts of interest.

No committee member receives any remuneration or compensation from BPiA.

The role of the President is to ensure that BPiA is run by an effective and well-informed committee and that a culture of open and frank discussion exists at committee meetings. The President sets the agenda for committee meetings and oversees the work of the volunteers who provide the day-to-day administration of the association.

The Secretary is responsible for coordinating board minutes and papers, as well as advising the committee on compliance with the law, our constitution and internal policies.

The Treasurer is responsible for the financial administration of the association, including safe stewardship of the association's bank account, financial reporting, and advising the committee on financial strategy.

Volunteers

BPiA is reliant on unpaid volunteers to operate. We are very grateful that there are people willing to give up their time and share their skills assisting those with a British state pension entitlement. The committee thanks everyone concerned. We cannot have done nor continue to do what we do without the generous contributions by our volunteers.

Risk Management

BPiA is subject to various risks which may affect our ability to help people with an entitlement to British state pension. The committee has policies in place that aim to manage these risks.

Our only source of income is our members through their annual membership fees and their donations. The nature of what we do attracts an older demographic and consequently we have a higher-than-average experience of mortality and morbidity. This requires us to be active in attracting new members to maintain our membership numbers. We must also ensure that what we offer our members makes it worthwhile for them to remain as members.

The apparent lack of progress on our campaign to end the British government's frozen pension policy can lead to members giving up. This can have a negative effect on our membership numbers and consequently on our income.

We are reliant on unpaid volunteers to administer our membership, provide a high standard of guidance and information and campaign on behalf of British state pensioners. Failure to retain volunteers or to replace them could leave us unable to continue our service to pension recipients.

Through ICBP, we make use of a lobbying company to help us influence a change in the UK government's frozen pensions policy. If that company was unwilling or unable to continue to act for ICBP, this could leave us without proper representation in the UK.

As a small organisation we do not have the resources to employ the same level of controls and procedures available to a large organisation. This could lead to loss of the organisation's assets.

Inflation may result in an increase in operating costs without an offsetting ability to achieve a matching increase in income threatening our financial viability.

We are reliant on our website and the internet for attracting new members, for efficient management of our membership records and for delivery of communications. A cyber-attack or similar malicious

interference could leave us without a way to manage our activities and to communicate with our members and others.

Activities during the year ended 30th June 2023

The past year has seen substantial change. The death of Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of King Charles III has ushered in a new Head of State in Australia and in the United Kingdom. The ending of the pandemic restrictions has permitted us to return to the level of activity we were engaged in prior to the pandemic.

Membership numbers went backwards during the year as we found we had lost contact with many members during the pandemic, and we were limited in our efforts to recruit new members. We remain concerned about the health of our older members as Covid-19 remains active despite the lifting of restrictions.

Our three biggest sources of new members were newspaper articles, Google searches and referrals from existing members. We were greatly helped during the year by MediaCast, a PR agency who were instrumental in publicising our presence and our service to the community. MediaCast not only provided us with a successful publicity campaign, they did this on a pro bono basis.

During the pandemic, we stopped using the rented office in Edgecliff and each of our volunteers started working from home. Your committee decided that this was a more efficient way to operate, given the pressure to reduce costs and we have not re-opened the office. The increased efficiency is offset by the lack of social interaction by our volunteers. We know that meeting other volunteers at Edgecliff was an attraction for several volunteers and we will reconsider reopening an office if funds permit.

Despite these changes, our volunteers remained active during the year answering telephone and email enquiries from pensioners and potential pensioners regarding British state pensions. The proposed changes to the rules relating to voluntary contributions resulted in many telephone calls and email enquiries as the deadlines were extended first to 31st July 2023 and subsequently to 5th April 2025.

BPIA had a stall at Have A Go Day (9th November 2022), the Sydney Mardi Gras (19th February 2023), Brigadoon at Bundanoon (1st April 2023) and the Aberdeen Highland Games (1st July 2023). We were able to answer many questions from the public regarding British state pensions and several new members joined at each of the events.

Our magazine "Fair Play" is now published on a regular quarterly schedule and comments on the new format have all been positive.

Operating Result

The result for the year is a disappointing deficit.

Our largest expenditure remains the cost of lobbying and public relations in the United Kingdom. We share this cost with our Canadian sister organisation, the Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners. We believe this is money well spent because any decision relating to the frozen pension policy will be made in London, not Canberra.

Outlook

We have reluctantly increased membership fees from 1st July 2023 and expect to return to the black in 2023. We hope that members who kindly add a donation when renewing their membership will maintain the same level of donation despite the increase in membership fee.

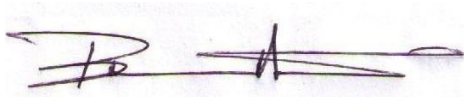
We will continue to focus on pressuring the Government in London as we believe this is where the decision will ultimately be made to end the freezing of British state pensions. We are assisted by sharing the cost of the work in the United Kingdom with our Canadian cousins who, like us, suffer from having their pensions frozen.

Our activities in Australia will continue to be directed at assisting people understand their pension entitlement. We hope through this and by publicising how we can help Australians who have worked in the UK will drive increased membership numbers. We will also raise the issue of frozen pensions with Australian politicians whenever the opportunity arises, with the aim of getting the Australian government to push the British government to change its policy.

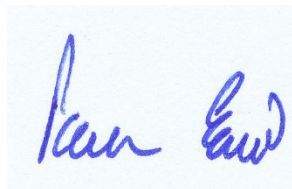
Our administration activities are undertaken by a small group of dedicated volunteers. We hope members will join the committee in expressing our gratitude for their efforts. The new website and membership database enables this work to be carried out remotely, but we are always looking for new volunteers to come forward to share the workload.

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 9th August 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Beaumont Owles', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Beaumont Owles

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Edwards', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Edwards

BRITISH PENSIONS IN AUSTRALIA INC.

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INCOME STATEMENT

for the year ended 30th June 2023

	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
INCOME		
Member subscriptions and donations	76,706	78,736
TOTAL INCOME	76,706	78,736
EXPENDITURE		
Bank charges	1,008	980
Communications and postage	4,623	2,313
Insurance	3,788	3,671
Marketing	2,490	3,660
Office rent	0	425
Office supplies and computing	4,587	5,096
Printing	9,578	10,451
Public relations	0	0
Share of ICBP expenses	56,948	51,539
Telephone	892	841
TOTAL EXPENSES	83,914	78,976
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(7,208)	(240)

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

at 30th June 2023

	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
ASSETS		
Balance at bank	16,345	23,161
LIABILITIES		
Accrued expenses	1,041	649
NET ASSETS	<u>15,304</u>	<u>22,512</u>
EQUITY		
Retained surpluses	22,512	22,752
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(7,208)	(240)
MEMBERS FUNDS	<u>15,304</u>	<u>22,512</u>

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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.

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 has no fixed assets. If it were to acquire fixed assets such as laptops and printers, they would be expensed when acquired.

Employee entitlements

BPiA is staffed by unpaid volunteers. It has no employees.

Contingent liability

BPiA has a commitment to fund the ongoing activities of the International Consortium of British Pensioners (ICBP). At 30th June 2023, this amounted to an obligation to pay the equivalent of C\$4,250 per month (about A\$4,700 per month) with a three month notice period for ending the obligation.