Fair Play

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Australian MPs Asked to Support Our Campaign

BPiA wrote to every Senator on 19th February 2026.

BPiA wrote to every member of the House of Representatives on 25th March 2026.

In our letter we asked our MPs to add their name to a letter to Sir Keir Starmer asking the British Prime Minister to negotiate a new social security agreement with Australia and Canada. You can read the letter to Sir Keir Starmer inside this issue of Fair Play. So far, 91 Canadian MPs and Senators and 63 British MPs and members of the House of Lords have added their name to the letter.

Disappointingly, very few Australian MPs have added their name to the letter. We understand that MPs receive hundreds of emails each day and it is easy to overlook a request from BPiA when it is not obviously sent on behalf of constituents.

These Australian MPs have agreed to add their name to the letter to Sir Keir Starmer: Senator David Pocock (Independent, ACT), Julian Leeser (Liberal, Berowra), Andrew Leigh (Labor, Fenner), Llew O'Brian (Liberal National, Wide Bay), Alison Penfold (National, Lynne), Henry Pike (Liberal National, Bowman), Zali Steggall (Independent, Warringah).

Where we have chased people for a response, the answer has been either they cannot trace our letter, or they cannot consider our request because BPiA is not a constituent. The solution is for you – our members – to telephone you federal MP and ask them to respond to our letter. Please let us know at help@bpia.org.au if the staff of your MP cannot trace the letter we sent. We will then send it again.

Please contact your federal MP if they haven't already said "yes". Tell them you are a constituent and you want him or her to add their name to the letter to Sir Keir Starmer. Tell them it is important for you that this discrimination against Australians ends.

Don't forget to contact your Senators! Don't know who they are? Please call us on 1300 308 353 for the names and contact details for the senators in your state or territory.

Find us on

END FROZEN PENSIONS AUSTRALIA

Canadian PM Visits Australia

Image courtesy Alamy

Canadian Prime Minister, Mark Carney, visited Australia from 3rd to 6th March 2026.

Officially, the purpose of the visit was to strengthen trade ties between Canada and Australia, enhance defence cooperation and discuss critical minerals and advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence.

The British Government's frozen pensions policy affects 200,000 Australians and 100,000 Canadians.

BPiA wrote to the Australian Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese asking that the issue of frozen pensions be added to the agenda for the discussions between the two Heads of Government. Our sister organisation CABP also wrote to Mr Carney's office in Ottawa asking for the issue of frozen pensions be added to the agenda.

We also wrote to the Minister for Social Services, Tanya Plibersek asking that she ensure the issue of frozen pensions is added to the agenda for discussions between the two Prime Ministers.

Following Mr Carney's visit, we submitted a Freedom of Information request asking if the issue of frozen pensions was discussed by the two Prime Ministers. We await a reply.

Canadian PM Visits Japan

The Canadian Prime Minister, Mark Carney, travelled to Tokyo on 6th March, where he met with Prime Minister Takaichi Sanae.

Following their meeting, the leaders released a joint statement and announced an ambitious new Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Canada and Japan across defence, energy, critical minerals, trade, and technology.

The End Frozen Pensions Campaign, of which BPiA is a partner, translated into Japanese a request for the issue of frozen pensions to be discussed during the meeting between the two Prime Ministers.

This request was delivered to the office of the Japanese Prime Minster by BPiA member Anthony Ford. Another copy of the request was submitted to Ms Takaichi by CABP member Bill Jarvis (who translated the request) via his Diet representative.

Image courtesy Alamy

There are over 7,000 recipients of a frozen British state pension living in Japan.

Commonwealth Health Card

If you are not eligible for the Australian Age Pension, you could be eligible for a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.

To meet the income test, your gross taxable income must be less than $101,105.00 a year if you're single, $161,768.00 a year for couples and $202,210.00 a year for couples separated by illness, respite care or prison.

Add $639.60 to these amounts for each child in your care.

There is no assets test.

If you hold a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, you could be eligible for cheaper medicines.

UK Local Elections to be a Test of the Starmer Government

Local elections in the UK are scheduled for Thursday, 7th May 2026. This election will be significant as it involves many council seats across various local authorities.

While local elections are often seen as being fought on local issues, national political issues often influence voting turnout and voting intentions.

Local issues such as housing, education, and waste management will be key to who will be elected. While local politics have no direct bearing on our campaign, this year's local elections will be seen as a demonstration of the current state of the popularity of the government in Westminster.

This will be the second set of local elections during Prime Minister Keir Starmer's leadership.

Approximately 5,014 council seats will be contested across 136 local authorities in England.

The elections were initially planned to be postponed in some areas due to local government reorganisation but were reinstated following legal challenges.

The elections will also see the introduction of new unitary authorities in areas like Surrey, where existing councils will be dissolved and replaced.

The government has allocated a £63 million support fund to assist councils in preparing for these elections.

Seats and Councils

Type of Council	Total	Seats Up for Election
London Boroughs	32	All seats contested
Metropolitan Boroughs	32	All seats contested
Unitary Authorities	18	All seats contested
County Councils	6	All seats contested
District Councils	48	Varies by council
Directly Elected Mayors	6	All seats contested

DWP says 110 days for us but only 21 days for you.

The Department of Work and Pensions took 110 days to publish the transitional rules for the change in voluntary National Insurance contributions occurring on 5th April 2026. This allowed only 21 days for people to respond.

There was no announcement. People affected would have only been aware of the transitional arrangements if they checked the GOV.UK website daily. Fortunately for BPiA members, we have a volunteer who does that and we were able to warn our members to lodge an application to pay voluntary contributions before the 5th April 2026 deadline.

By way of explanation, in her budget speech on Thursday 27th November 2025, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves, announced changes to the rules for contributions to the UK's state pension scheme by people living outside the UK.

These changes take effect on 5th April 2026.

Until 5th April 2026, people who have worked in the UK for a minimum of three years may make voluntary contributions to the National Insurance scheme while living outside the United Kingdom. This includes people who have returned to Australia after working in the UK for the required minimum time and people who have emigrated to Australia. From 6th April 2026, the minimum time spent working in the UK will be increased to ten years.

In addition, the opportunity for people living outside the UK (including Australian residents) to pay voluntary contributions at the attractive class 2 rate will cease. From 6th April 2026, voluntary contributions can only be made at the more expensive class 3 rate.

The announcement on 27th November 2025 included a statement that transitional arrangements will be announced shortly.

The transitional arrangements were published on the GOV.UK website on 16th March 2026.

If you believe this treatment of people planning their retirement is less than satisfactory, please write to your MP in the UK.

CABP Speaks to Canadian Parliament

The Canadian Parliament recently considered the accession of the United Kingdom to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

The Standing Committee on International Trade reviewed Bill C-13 which seeks to ratify the accession of the UK to the CPTPP. Our sister organisation, the Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners (CABP) was invited to present to the committee.

CABP chair Edwina Melville-Gray told the committee passage of the bill would grant the UK priceless trade privileges even while the UK continues to freeze pensions in every CPTPP member country. She pointed out that this was the only foreseeable opportunity to achieve an end to a problem that successive Canadian governments have tried to resolve for decades only to be met with a shrug from the UK. She said this was a problem that has cost Canadian taxpayers billions of dollars in support payments to pensioners that should instead be being made from the UK system those pensioners paid into.

Bill C-13 finally gives Canada leverage, Ms Melville-Gray said. She also informed the committee that the UK has never reviewed the frozen pensions policy in over 70 years. This absence of review falls short of the standard of good government as recommended by the Parliamentary Ombudsman. According to Ms Melville-Gray, the UK continues to fall short of modern mobility and contemporary values. In contrast, she said, Canada honours its obligations to its citizens by unilaterally indexing CPP and OAS paid abroad, including those paid in the UK.

The Canadian Senate will be considering Bill C-13 later in April and Edwina Melville-Gray has been invited to present at this event.

Readers are reminded that the Australian Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT) reviewed the accession of the UK to the CPTPP on 18th June 2024.

BPiA made a submission to JSCOT which was considered as part of its review. You can read the minutes of the JSCOT meeting and its consideration of our submission at https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties/FijiSOFA/Report/Chapter_3_-_UK_Accession_CPTPP

Drop-In Event in Parliament

Tessa Munt MP

The End Frozen Pensions Campaign will be holding a Drop-In event in Parliament at 11.00 am on 22nd April 2026.

Tessa Munt (Liberal Democrat, Wells and Mendip Hills) has agreed to host the event.

A Drop-In event permits MPs who support our campaign to show that support and to learn the latest developments in our campaign. For MPs who are unfamiliar with the frozen pensions issue, it allows them to learn about the irrational unfairness of the policy. All MPs have been invited, and the Drop-In takes place in a room within Parliament at a time just before Prime Minister Questions. This makes it both a convenient location and a convenient time for MPs to "drop in".

Please email your UK MP and ask them to attend the Drop-In. Don't know what to say? A suitable letter is available at the BPiA website or by emailing help@bpia.org.au.

New Australian Age Pension Rates Announced

The rates of Australian Age Pension from 20th March 2026 are:

Payments per fortnight	Single	Couple each	Couple combined	Couple apart due to ill health
Maximum basic rate	$1,100.30	$829.40	$1,658.80	$1,100.30
Maximum pension supplement	$86.50	$65.20	$130.40	$86.50
Energy supplement	$14.10	$10.60	$21.20	$14.10
TOTAL	$1,2300.90	$905.20	$1,810.40	$1,200.90

To get Age Pension you must be 67 years or older, under the income and assets test limits and an Australian resident, normally for at least ten years.

Some people who were getting part pensions on 19th September 2009 are on transitional rates. This is until they catch up with the current normal rates.

The income test

As a single person, you can earn up to $218 per fortnight before your Age Pension is affected. If your income is above $218 in a fortnight, your Age Pension will reduce by 50 cents for each dollar of income above $218.

As a couple living together or apart due to ill health you can earn up to $380 per fortnight before your Age Pension is affected. If your income is above $380 in a fortnight, your Age Pension will reduce by 25 cents for each dollar of income above $380. Different rates apply for partners getting a payment other than a pension.

If your income in a fortnight goes over the cut-off point, you will receive no Age Pension in that fortnight.

Your situation	Cut-off point
Single	$2,619.80
A couple living together (combined)	$4,000.80
A couple living apart due to ill health (combined)	$5,183.60
A transitional rate pensioner - single	$2,662.25
Transitional rate pensioners - couple living together (combined)	$4,324.00
Transitional rate pensioners - couple living apart due to ill health (combined)	$5,268.50

The Assets Test

When your assets are more than the limit for your situation, your pension will reduce.

Your situation	Asset Limit Homeowner	Asset Limit Non-homeowner
Single	$321,500	$579,500
Couple combined	$481,500	$739,500
Couple separated due to illness, combined	$481,500	$739,500
Couple, one partner eligible, combined	$481,500	$739,500

From 20 March 2026, no Age Pensions is paid when your assets are over the cut off point for your situation.

Your situation	Homeowner	Non-homeowner
Single	$722,000	$980,000
Couple combined	$1,085,000	$1,343,000
Couple separated due to illness, combined	$1,242,500	$1,540,500
Couple, one partner eligible, combined	$1,085,000	$1,343,000

If you get Rent Assistance with your pension, your cut off point is higher. More information is available from Centrelink.

Continued on page 6

New Australian Age Pension Rates Announced

Continued from page 5

Deeming rates also changed on 20th March 2026.

If you are single, the first $64,200 of your financial assets is deemed to earn 1.25%. Everything over that is deemed to earn 3.25% income.

If you are a member of a couple, the first $106,200 of your combined financial assets is deemed to earn 1.25%. Everything over $106,200 is deemed to earn 3.25%.

How British state pension is treated

Any British state pension you receive is included as income for the income test. If your income including British state pension causes your Australian Age Pension to be reduced, it is reduced by no more than 50 cents for each dollar equivalent of British State Pension received.

If your income including British state pension exceeds the cut-off point, you will receive no Age Pension.

There are 200,000 people in Australia who receive British state pension. BPiA is proud to have helped many of these people claim their state pension entitlement.

What will happen when our campaign is successful?

When our campaign is successful, if your income including an increased rate of British state pension remains below $218 per fortnight, if you are single, or, if you are a couple, your combined income including an increased rate of British state pension remains below $380 per fortnight, your Age Pension will be unaffected.

If your income including an increased rate of British state pension is above these limits but remains below the cut -off point, your Age Pension will reduce by 50 cents for each dollar equivalent of British state pension received if you are single and by 25 cents for each dollar equivalent of British state pension received if you are a couple.

If your income without an increased rate of British state pension is above the cut-off point, you will remain ineligible for Age Pension.

When our campaign is successful, some people will transition from receiving a full rate of Australian Age Pension to a slightly reduced rate of Age Pension. Some people who currently receive only a token amount of Australian Age Pension, may find that when our campaign is successful they are above the cut-off point. The elimination of the Australian Age Pension will probably not be as significant as being ineligible for a Pensioners Card because of the ancillary benefits the Pensioners Card brings.

Old State Pension versus New State Pension

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Men born before 6th April 1951 and women born before 6th April 1953 are eligible for Basic State Pension (sometimes called “old state pension”) if they have paid or been credited with sufficient National Insurance contributions.

The number of qualifying years of National Insurance contributions varies based on a person’s birth date. Generally, between 30 and 39 qualifying years are required for a full state pension.

Men born on or after 5th April 1951 and women born on or after 5th April 1953 are eligible for the full rate of New State Pension if they have paid or been credited with 35 years of National Insurance contributions.

The difference between the rates of New State Pension and Basic State Pension is not as great as may appear at first sight because additional state pension is added to Basic State Pension but not added to New State Pension. In addition, if a pensioner was contracted out at some time in their working life, their New State Pension will be reduced whereas their Basic State Pension is unaffected.

The state pension age is rising from 66 to 67 between 2026 and 2028, affecting those born between April 1960 and April 1977.

If you were born after April 1977, your state pension age isn't yet confirmed. That's because the state pension age is scheduled to rise to 68 between 2044 and 2046, but this could be brought forward. The government has committed to give at least ten years' notice of a change.

New State Pension Rates

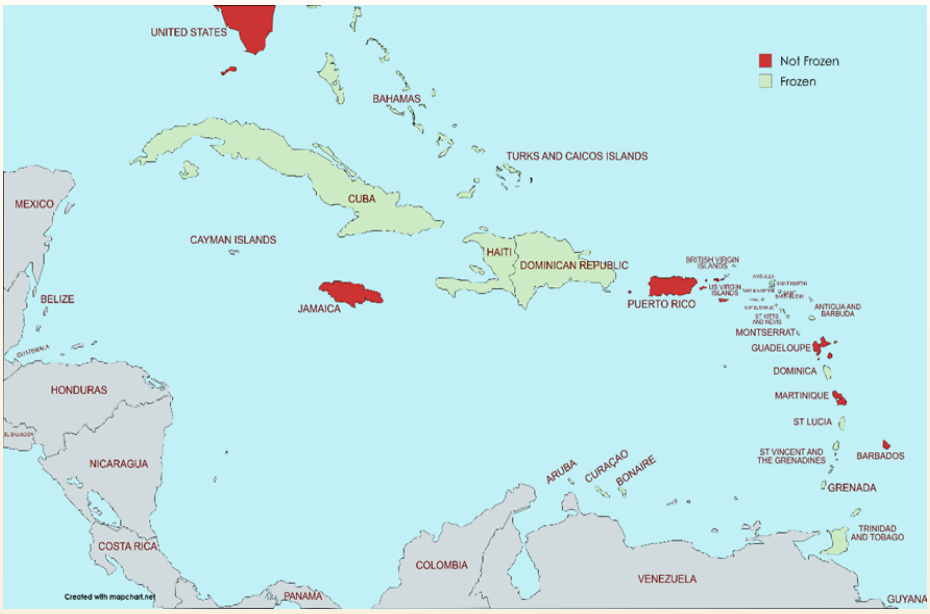
If you don’t have a frozen pension, the full rate of New State Pension will increase from £230.25 per week to £241.30 per week.

The value of Protected Payments will increase by 3.8% (previously 1.7%).

If you don’t have a frozen pension, the full rate of Basic State Pension will increase from £176.45 per week to £184.90 per week. The value of each graduated pension unit will increase from 0.1783 to 0.1851

State pension recipients living in Australia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, Thailand, Zimbabwe and other countries where state pensions are frozen will not benefit from the increased rate of state pension unless they reach state pension age after 5th April 2026.

The Messy Caribbean



There are 24 countries and territories in the Caribbean. 17 are frozen, 6 are not frozen, one remains unclear.

The countries and territories where British state pensions are uprated are (with the current number of pensioners) Barbados (2,929), Guadeloupe (none), Jamaica (6,964), Martinique (none), Puerto Rico (18), US Virgin Islands (49).

The countries and territories where British state pensions are frozen are Anguilla (64), Antigua and Barbuda (229), Aruba (none), Bahamas (207), British Virgin Islands (37), Cayman Islands (226), Cuba (7), Dominica (274), Dominican Republic (52), Haiti (none), Monserrat (48), Netherlands Antilles (36), St Kitts and Nevis (170), St Lucia (548), St Vincent and the Grenadines (304), Trinidad and Tobago (1,019), Turks and Caicos Islands (21).

The situation on Saint Martin/Sint Maartin is unclear (there are 7 pensioners there). BPiA has lodged a Freedom of Information request to obtain clarification. There are five bus routes on the island and access to an uprated state pension may depend on where you board the number 1 bus!

The NO UPRATING Process for 2026 is Underway

Rt Hon Sir Stephen Timms, Minister of State in the Department for Work and Pensions

The Minister of State for Social Security and Disability, Sir Stephen Timms has kicked off the annual process of uprating state pensions and social security benefits by laying a Statutory Instrument before Parliament on 12th January 2026. His proposals were debated on Tuesday 10th February 2026.

In addition to increasing pensions and benefits, the Statutory Instrument denies the uprating to those pensioners with the wrong address.

Sir Roger Gale (Conservative, Herne Bay and Sandwich) and Neil Duncan Jordan (Labour, Poole) raised the issue of frozen pensions in the debate.

You can read the Hansard record of the debate at https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2026-02-10/debates/9979DEC9-AA8E-417B-A0A6-B50044361FBF/PensionsAndSocialSecurity

We made a submission to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments. This committee considers statutory instruments made in exercise of powers granted by Act of Parliament. You can read our submission here: https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/52229/documents/290205/default/

Have You Received a Call Back?

When the New State Pension was introduced in April 2016, a special concession was introduced for those wanting to maximise their entitlement to New State Pension.

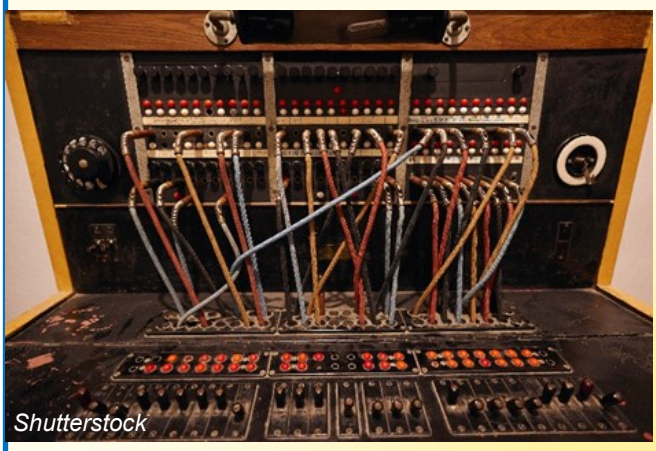
Under the special concession people were permitted to make voluntary National Insurance contributions for gaps in their contribution history back to 2006. The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) made several attempts to close the special concession but each time they were overwhelmed with enquiries and applications. The DWP just didn't have the resources to cope with the volume of people wanting to pay voluntary contributions.

Finally, the DWP announced in 2025 that no new applications under the special concession would be accepted after 5th April 2025 but people who registered by that date will receive a telephone call from the DWP after the deadline. People who registered will be permitted to pay voluntary contributions under the special concession after the 5th April 2025 deadline.BPiA advised its members to register by 5th April 2025 if they wanted to take advantage of the special concession and many did.

The DWP has advised BPiA that 528,000 people registered for the call back service. They tell us that by 9th February 2026, 21,000 people call-backs were incomplete. The DWP expected to complete these call backs by the 31st March 2026.

We are aware that several people received call backs in the middle of the night in our time zone. This includes people living in Australia, New Zealand and Samoa. If the call back was unanswered the DWP has closed the case and marked it as 'no longer interested'. If this is your situation, or you did not receive a call back, we urge you to contact the DWP urgently. They telephone number is shown on the back page.

HMRC Telephone Statistics


Shutterstock

We get many complaints from BPiA members frustrated by an inability to get through to HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) or the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) when telephoning from our part of the world.

We have been pushing for some time without success for the DWP to provide an 0800 number for the convenience of pensioners in Australia.

In response to a recent enquiry, HMRC has provided BPiA with these statistics covering the period from November 2025 to January 2026:

Month	Calls deflected in messaging	Busy messages	Handled calls	Abandoned calls	ASA (hh:mm:ss)	AAH %
Nov 2025	39,028	9	81,781	2,256	00:02:11	97.3%
Dec 2025	32,387	<5	73,540	1,607	00:01:42	97.9%
Jan 2026	51,892	38	102,242	8,271	00:06:13	92.5%

Calls deflected in messaging: These are calls that do not enter the adviser queue because the caller is redirected by automated systems, such as Interactive Voice Response (IVR) or Intelligent Telephony Automation (ITA), before they reach an adviser.

Busy Messages: An automated message is played when HMRC cannot place callers into the adviser queue. This is usually because the queue is full or capacity is temporarily restricted.

Handled Calls: Any call successfully dealt with by an adviser.

Abandoned Calls: These are callers who enter the helpline queue but hang up before an adviser answers.

ASA: Average Speed of Answer is the average time callers wait in the queue before an adviser answers.

AAH %: Adviser-answered % is the percentage of all calls answered by a human adviser after navigating automated messages and choosing the option to speak to someone.

Both HMRC and DWP recommend telephoning at 8.00 am UK time when they first open because this is when they are least busy.

Rockingham WA Have-A-Go Day

BPiA WA will once again be proudly representing our organisation at Have-A-Go Day, Mark Barnett Sports Complex corner of Dixon Road & Louise Street, Rockingham on Wednesday, 22nd April 2026.

BPiA Burswood HAGD Volunteers some have volunteered for Rockingham

We're looking for a few extra hands to make the day a success.

BPiA editor, Stuart Coleman will be running the BPiA stand and is looking for anyone who can spare an hour or so on the day to help engage visitors, hand out information, or simply keep the energy up at our display.

If you're able to assist, please contact Stuart at 0417 939 638 or secoleman46@gmail.com.

Next Webinar

Our next webinar is scheduled for Wednesday 29th April at 8.00 pm AEST (6.00 pm AWST).

The topic is State Pensions and Voluntary Contributions Under the New Rules.

Please email help@bpia.org.au for the link to the webinar.

25 Years Without an Agreement

March 2026 marked 25 years since the Australian Government withdrew from the social security agreement with the United Kingdom.

Australia withdrew from the agreement in frustration because of the continued refusal of the UK Government to renegotiate the agreement.

The Australia-United Kingdom social security agreement was signed in London on 1st October 1990 and amended on 22nd April 1992.

The agreement replaced an earlier agreement which came into force on 1st April 1958, with amendments on1st October 1962, 6th March 1975 and 9th February 1987.

In reviewing the proposed termination, the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT) noted that the agreement was an old-style 'host-country' agreement whereas Australia's current social security agreements with other countries are modern 'shared responsibilities' agreements.

Under a host country agreement, the country where a person permanently resides takes responsibility for providing social security cover for that person. The agreement with the UK, therefore, does not include provisions for Australians living in the UK to claim Australian benefits.

Under a shared responsibility agreement, each country contributes 'its reasonable share of social security coverage for the individual concerned.'

The Department of Family and Children Services (DFACS) was unable to explain why the old agreement did not include provision for uprating of British state pensions. JSCOT inferred from the information made available that the decision to enter into the original agreement was based on the belief that a flawed agreement was better than no agreement.

JSCOT concluded that in the absence of indexation, the people affected would rely increasingly on Australian income support. To quote the JSCOT report: **"This country is effectively subsidising the UK National Insurance System".**

JSCOT took evidence from several sources including a Brunel University study in 1993 that found the United Kingdom was the only OECD country that discriminated between pensioners in different overseas countries.

Become A Member

As a BPiA member you will receive these benefits:

Prompt information about changes to the rules for National Insurance contributions and state pensions

Guidance on how to apply to pay voluntary contributions and how to apply for a state pension

A quarterly issue of our informative FAIR PLAY magazine

If you have an email address a monthly newsletter

Access to over 30 Fact Sheets providing practical information about National Insurance and British state pension

Roundtable in London

Neil Duncan-Jordan MP

The End Frozen Pensions Campaign is organising a roundtable discussion of the frozen pensions issue on 22nd April 2 026.

We hope to have representatives from a wide range of countries who have citizens affected by this irrational British Government policy. The objective is to broaden our campaign to include countries and territories other than Australia and Canada.

Neil Duncan-Jordan (Labour, Poole) has kindly agreed to host a room in Parliament House for the roundtable.

Media Mentions

Daily Record	Nearly half a million older people not due State Pension pay rise in April (5th January 2026)
ChronicleLive	DWP State Pension warning as nearly 500,000 people to miss out on April rise (6th January 2026)
BirminghamLive	DWP handing state pensioners bumper £575 - but 453,000 will be denied anything (7th January 2026)
BirminghamLive	Four groups of state pensioners not getting £575 Triple Lock hike in April (8th January 2026)
DAILY EXPRESS	State pension warning over full list of people not eligible for increase in April 2026 (8th January 2026)
THE i PAPER	The costly mistakes UK retirees make when moving abroad - and how to avoid them (16th January 2026)
Daily Record	Nearly half a million older people not due State Pension pay rise in April (4th February 2026)
ChronicleLive	More than 450,000 State Pensioners will not receive DWP pay rise in April (4th February 2026)
ECHO	DWP State Pension payments hike but not everyone will get it (4th February 2026)
Mirror	Almost half a million on State Pension won't see April increase (4th February 2026)
British Bulletin	State Pension 'injustice' As Nearly 500,000 Britons To Miss Out On Triple Lock Payment Boost This Year (5th February 2026)
BirminghamLive	100,000 state pensioners to be blocked from receiving Triple Lock (5th February 2026)
GB NEWS BRITAIN'S NEWS CHANNEL	State pension 'injustice' as nearly 500,000 Britons to miss out on triple lock payment boost this year (5th February 2026)
Daily Record	New State Pension update for over 100,000 people on frozen payments (5th February 2026)
THE GAZETTE	Nearly half a million pensioners miss out on State Pension rise 2026 (7th February 2026)
Times and Star	Nearly half a million pensioners miss out on State Pension rise 2026 (7th February 2026)
EUROPE SAYS	State pension scandal leaves British veteran feeling like a 'second class citizen' as payments frozen (8th February 2026)
GB NEWS BRITAIN'S NEWS CHANNEL	State pension scandal leaves British veteran feeling like a 'second class citizen' as payments frozen (8th February 2026)
Filmogaz	Frozen State Pensions Leave British Veteran Feeling Like a 'Second-Class Citizen'

Letter to Sir Keir Starmer

END FROZEN PENSIONS AUSTRALIA

The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA
UNITED KINGDOM

Dear Prime Minister,

We recognise and cherish the deep and enduring relationship between Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom, which has been built on shared history, values, and mutual respect.

As members of our respective Parliaments, we express our concern regarding the United Kingdom's frozen pensions policy, which treats UK State pensioners residing in Australia and Canada differently from those residing in other overseas countries (such as USA, Philippines, Israel and Türkiye). This policy unfairly denies annual pension uprating to pensioners now living in Australia and Canada, despite them having made contributions to the UK National Insurance system under the same rules as pensioners living elsewhere.

We urge the British Government to negotiate new reciprocal social security agreements with Australia and with Canada to end this longstanding inequity and ensure fair treatment for all UK pensioners.

WE REHOME UNWANTED THINGS

Have you been left with your family's belongings and finding it hard to know what to do with it all?
Do you hate the idea of throwing useful things away?
Does the ever-increasing size of our landfills worry you?

We can help **FREE of charge!**

WE TAKE AWAY

- Household items
- Electrical goods
- Toys
- Vintage items
- Tools
- Just about anything...

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
TILLY 0412 349 402

USEFUL INFORMATION

Contacting The Pension Service or HM Revenue and Customs

The Pensions Service deals with claims for state pension and payment of state pensions. Their telephone number is **00 11 44 19 12 18 77 77**

HM Revenue & Customs deal with National Insurance contributions including voluntary contributions. Their telephone number is **00 11 44 19 12 03 70 10**

What is a Frozen Pension?

The British state pension is a government pension paid to people who have contributed to the National Insurance scheme. It is paid to people who have reached state pension age. It will be paid at £241.30 a week for people who have paid 35 years contributions and who reach state pension age after 5th April 2026.

Each year, the British state pension is adjusted for inflation. This annual 'uprating' is paid to the 12 million pension recipients who live in the UK and 650,000 of the people who live outside the UK. But 430,000 people who live in selected countries are denied these annual adjustments. Australia is one of the countries selected by this British Government for this arbitrary unjust treatment.

How Can We Help?

British Pensions in Australia Inc. (BPiA) helps people who have issues with their eligibility for British state pension, making voluntary National Insurance contributions, claiming British state pension and telling the Pension Service about a change in address, a change in bank account.

We help people who have not received their regular pension payment or have not received a replay to a letter or email or experience difficulty through by telephone.

We help people inform the Pensions Service when a loved one has passed away.

WE DON'T CHARGE FOR HELPING PEOPLE

How to Contact British Pensions in Australia Inc.

You can email us at help@bpia.org.au

You can telephone us at **1300 308 353**

You can write to us at **P O Box 438, Gordon NSW 2072**

Follow us on Facebook or Linked In or BlueSky
Keep up to date with our website www.bpia.org.au. The Members Only section of our website has lots of useful information.

Benefits of Being a Member of BPiA

BPiA is a registered charity. We rely on the annual membership fees from our supporters and their kind donations to do the work we do.

We cannot do what we do without your support.

We are staffed by unpaid volunteers. All the money we receive goes to helping others and in our campaign to end the cruel frozen pensions policy.

Members receive our quarterly magazine **Fair Play** and a monthly newsletter is sent to members with an email address.

Our ABN is **42 186 383 389**

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Please take professional advice before acting on any matter related to the contents of this publication.

Fair Play is edited by Stuart Coleman. Suggestions, criticisms, ideas and information are welcomed.

Contact Stuart on **0417 939 638** or by email **secoleman@iinet.net.au**

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