



British Pensions in Australia Inc. PO Box 438 Gordon NSW 2072

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11<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Member for Grayndler  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

### Invitation to 'Frozen Pensions' Drop-In Session

I am writing to you, as President of British Pensions in Australia, to invite you to the **Frozen Pensions drop-in session** to be held in **R2.94 in Parliament House on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 between 10:00-12:00**. As the session is 'drop-in' style, you are very welcome to stay for as long as you are able to in this time, even if only for five minutes.

Over 200,000 Australian pensioners are currently being denied their fully uprated UK state pension because they now live in Australia. This means their UK state pensions are effectively 'frozen' from the time they left the UK or first withdrew their pension. Some frozen pensions are on as little as £20 per week, and many are facing a retirement of financial hardship. One such Australian pensioner is 101-year-old Patricia Coulthard, who served as a nurse in World War Two and cared for troops at Dunkirk. She had her pension frozen at just £46 per week, after moving to Australia to live near her two children. This is less than one-third of the full state pension she deserves. If Patricia had moved to an unaffected country such as the US, she would be receiving a UK state pension of £156.20 per week. **It is estimated that this policy is costing the Australian taxpayer over \$100 million a year.**

At the session, you will have the opportunity to hear more about the UK Government's frozen pensions policy and its impact first-hand from Australian pensioners who are impacted by this discriminatory policy, including representatives of British Pensions in Australia (BPiA). There will also be opportunities for photographs and to sign a board in support of ending frozen pensions.

We would be delighted if you could join us and meet those affected by this cruel policy. Many thanks for your consideration and I hope to see you between **10:00-12:00 on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August in R2.94 in Parliament House.**

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Edwards', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Patrick Edwards

President

British Pensions in Australia Inc.



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## KEY FACTS ABOUT UK STATE PENSIONS

- Unlike Australian Age Pension, it is not a benefit. It is an entitlement paid for by compulsory contributions to the scheme.
- It is not means tested.
- About 1.1 million people living outside the UK receive a state pension
  - *600,000 receive annual inflation adjustments similar to those for the 11 million people living in the UK.*
  - *500,000 do not receive annual inflation adjustments. Their pensions are frozen.*
- There are more recipients of UK state pension in Australia than in any other country outside the UK.
- Australia and the UK used to have a reciprocal social security agreement, but Australia withdrew from the agreement in 2001 because the UK refused to negotiate an amendment to put Australians on the same terms as are available to residents of countries like The Philippines, Turkey and the USA.