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MEDIA RELEASE

UK Extends Deadline for Voluntary Contributions – Again!

The UK government has extended the deadline for making voluntary contributions to the National Insurance scheme for the second time.

Usually, voluntary contributions to the National Insurance scheme for past years are limited to the past six years. However, in 2016 major changes were made to the scheme and as a temporary measure, people were permitted to make back contributions for the past sixteen years.

This temporary concession was scheduled to end on 5th April 2023. However, the government agencies concerned were unable to cope with the volume of applications to pay voluntary contributions ahead of the deadline and it was extended to 31st July 2023.

The number of people applying to pay back contributions continue to overwhelm the government agencies and the deadline has been extended for the second time to 5th April 2025.

The extension will mean men born after 5 April 1951 or women born after 5 April 1953 have more time to check their records and decide whether to pay voluntary contributions to make up for gaps they may have in their National Insurance record from April 2006.

British Pensions in Australia (BPiA), the not-for-profit organisation that assists people in Australia who receive British State Pension or who have worked in the UK and have the potential to receive British State Pension when they reach pension age has been helping people to apply for voluntary contributions.

BPiA President Patrick Edwards said *“This second extension is very welcome with many people in Australia struggling to reach the deadline of 31st July given the distance, time difference and the requirement that applications cannot be made online”*.

EXPLANATORY NOTE: Anyone who has worked in the UK will have paid contributions to the National Insurance Scheme. This is a compulsory scheme for all workers in the UK. The amount of pension payable depends on the number of contributions paid. The ability to pay voluntary contributions provides the opportunity to increase the amount of pension receivable. BPiA can be contacted at membership@bpia.org.au or by telephoning 1300 308 353.

The UK government press release can be read at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/deadline-for-voluntary-national-insurance-contributions-extended-to-april-2025#:~:text=Individuals%20can%20usually%20only%20pay,is%205%20April%20each%20year.>

13th June 2023