Julian Simmonds MP 67 Clarence Rd

Member for Ryan Indooroopilly

Parliament House 12 April 2022

Canberra

ACT

Dear Julian

It seems an age ago that we met over coffee in Station Rd when you were our local councillor and I was Treasurer of Taringa Rovers.

However on this occasion I want to raise another matter regarding UK pensions paid to expats who earned an income at some stage in England and thus became eligible for a UK Pension (which is not means tested – no British pensions are).

Are you aware that UK pensions paid to eligible pensioners in Australia are never increased to reflect cost of living increases?

They are referred to as **Frozen Pensions**.

There is a large group of these pensioners who for several years have been trying to get pensions adjusted for cost of living just as they are to UK resident pensioners – and if they are resident in the European Union, even though the UK is no longer a member of the EU.

This seems incongruous and discriminatory to me and I’m sure to you too.

As part of your mission to represent your voters could I ask you to raise this with the relevant ministers and impress on them that this is just plain wrong? We should request immediate action be taken by the UK government.

Responses that the UK government “does not consider this a priority” should be disputed in strong terms and pressure be exerted for a change of policy.

To support our argument you could add that:

* UK pensioners in Europe, the USA and many other non-Commonwealth countries receive unfrozen pensions. Why are some Commonwealth countries discriminated against?
* We did them favour by quickly agreeing to an FTA shortly after Brexit
* We readily joined AUKUS and have always been supportive of the UK and its policies
* Australia pays pensions to its expat pensioners living in the UK without rendering them **frozen**

In my voting decision I shall be considering the coalition government’s view of this important matter.

Sincerely

Tony O’Mahony