



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION

Annex D

AUSTRALIA HOUSE  
STRAND  
LONDON WC2B 4LA  
01-438 8211

10 March 1989

The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*My dear Prime Minister,*

I have the honour to forward to you the following message from The Hon. R.J.L. Hawke, Prime Minister of Australia.

Text begins:

Dear Margaret,

Thank you for your letter of 28 December 1988 concerning the indexation of British pensions in Australia.

I am most disappointed that, once again, the United Kingdom Government's response is negative. I appreciate that the cost of full indexation would be substantial. However, the cost of other options such as some form of prospective indexation could be very modest in comparison.

While I note your point that frozen rate British pensions are paid in around 145 countries and uprated pensions in 30 others, Australia has by far the largest number of frozen rate pensioners, some 120,000. It is regrettable that such a large group, in a Commonwealth country with such close and extensive ties with Britain, does not merit a more favourable response from your Government.

It would be in our mutual interest to have further discussions between officials to explore ways of reaching a satisfactory resolution to this issue which my Government sees as involving injustice to a large group of people in Australia.

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I would welcome your agreement to talks with a view to putting forward realistic ~~options~~ for consideration by our Governments.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Hawke

Text ends.

*Yours sincerely,*

*D. W. Evans*

(D. W. EVANS)  
Acting High Commissioner