Better Living – A tip from the National Pensioners Convention (NPC)

Page 12 of NPCs first 16 page magazine edition of Better Living, now available on the website at [www.npcuk.org](http://www.npcuk.org/) points to how struggling pensioners suffering from our current miserly state pension, the lowest provision in Europe, can dramatically increase their income if they are entitled to Pension Credit – so it’s worth a try if it applies to you or someone you know!

Receiving Pension Credit can make a real and positive difference to the lives of older people in financial hardship, particularly during the cost-of-living crisis. You might get extra help if you’re a carer, severely disabled, or responsible for a child or young person.

Pension Credit is separate from your State Pension. You can get Pension Credit even if you have other income, savings or own your own home. However, the uptake of Pension Credit has been consistently low.

The latest government statistics available estimate that up to 880,000 people could be eligible for, but are missing out on, this vital entitlement. They may have their own reasons for not applying such as too much hassle, complicated form filling etc. but many could be completely unaware of the benefit or of help that can be obtained to complete the forms.

Ways to claim Pension Credit.

Apply Online by post - print out and fill in the Pension Credit claim form or call the claim line to request a form. Send the claim form to the Pension Service, or ask someone to do it for you to: The Pension Service 8 Post Handling Site B Wolverhampton, WV99 1AN.

Apply by phone using the online service if you have already applied for your State Pension. Go to https://apply-for-pensioncredit.service.gov.uk/start A friend or family member can call for you if you cannot use the phone. Telephone: 0800 99 1234 Textphone: 0800 169 0133

Relay UK: 18001 then 0800 99 1234 British Sign Language (BSL) video relay service if you’re on a computer - find out how to use the service on mobile or tablet Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm.

Contact a voluntary organisation like Citizens Advice or Age UK if you need help.

Apologies for my recent absences due to two recent life-saving visits to James Paget Hospital but with wonderful care and treatment from key workers there, working under pressure in high capacity conditions, I’m feeling good and am pleased to wish all a Happy Christmas and good health for 2024, on behalf of our members.

Christopher Brooks, Chair,

Suffolk, and Anglia Region

Pensioners Associations (NPC)