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## Embassy News

The Embassy of Switzerland in Wellington communicates

The Embassy is currently looking, once again, into various aspects of the well-known issue of the Swiss AHV pension scheme. The most important aspect is, of course, the fact that New Zealand deducts most AHV pensions from Superannuation.

However, there is another question arising from these issues. Have Swiss citizens living in New Zealand who contribute on a voluntary base to the AHV system been able to deduct these contributions from their New Zealand taxable income? Your representation would be most grateful if you could share your experience concerning this particular aspect.

Please contact the Embassy by e-mail (wel.vertretung@eda.admin.ch) or by phone (04 472 15 93) and leave your name and contact details.

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Unfortunately the latest information I have received in August of this year, indicates that the New Zealand Government is not very keen on changing the present system with arguments like:

*"NZ First's Bill would be complicated and costly to administer, and would throw our agreements with other countries into chaos".*

*"Our super system is recognised internationally as an easy system to operate, and importantly, it keeps a connection to New Zealand. We also have agreements with other countries".*

I can only recommend that those affected by Section 70 to write to their MPs to lobby them to support this Bill. National MPs are bound to fall in behind their Prime Minister who has continually stifled all attempts to start a much needed debate on Superannuation in New Zealand.

I will keep you informed on further progress concerning this ongoing unjust issue being practised by the New Zealand Government.

Peter Ehrler



**Gloria Giugno**

Vice-Consul

Dear fellow compatriots

At the end of July 2015, I arrived in Wellington, together with my partner Julian Booyen. After having served in Africa and Asia, I felt it was time for a change and to "conquer" new territories. I have taken up my new assignment as Vice-Consul, the position previously held by Ariane Pochon.

It makes me proud to represent our beautiful Ticino and the Swiss Italian speaking minority of Switzerland. Should anybody call me, my Swiss Italian accent will be quickly noticed. It is a great privilege to work for the Embassy of Switzerland in New Zealand, a country with such immense natural beauties and with such friendly and helpful people. I am looking forward to work, explore and discover everything that New Zealand and all the other consular districts covered by this Embassy have to offer. It is my goal and pleasure to create an even closer and beneficial relationship between the Embassy and all the Swiss citizens residing here. I will therefore keep our website updated and I will respond to all queries to the best of my ability.

Gloria Giugno

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