

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 186

Topic: Portability of Disability Support Pension (DSP)

Hansard Page: 21/10/10 - CA34

Senator Fifield asked:

Could you examine this particular situation where you have an individual on DSP whose parents are in a guardianship situation, the parents' work takes them overseas for a period of time, which is not the decision of the individual concerned, but that individual forfeits their DSP if they are overseas for more than 13 weeks?

Answer:

Under the current legislation DSP is generally only payable overseas for up to 13 weeks. There is no discretion in the legislation to allow for extended portability of DSP where a person is under a guardianship arrangement and goes overseas with their carer. Only in the following circumstances can DSP be paid overseas indefinitely; the person:

- is severely disabled and terminally ill, and leaves Australia permanently to be with a family member or to return to the person's country of origin;
- is covered by an international social security agreement; or
- is covered by grandfather provisions under the pre 2004 legislation when severely disabled DSP recipient were entitled to indefinite portability.