

**From:**  
**To:** [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed changes to the DSP Portability Rules.  
**Date:** Friday, 20 June 2014 8:44:48 PM

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Dear Sir,

I wish to register my opposition to the proposed changes to portability of Disability Support Pension (DSP) from January 2015. In particular I am concerned about the proposed reduction to the amount of time allowed overseas, from 6 weeks per absence, to 4 weeks annual absence allowable.

I have been on the DSP for 3.6 years as a result of a chronic back condition. I have had 4 back operations, none of which were successful. I have 2 fused discs and 3 ruptured discs. I also have severe spinal stenosis. I am in the process of appeal to the AAT for full time portability until my retirement in January 2016.

Medical reports, MRI and Cat Scans, have confirmed my injuries and have been assessed by a Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon as unfit for any further work of any nature. I am in constant and severe back and leg pain.

I travel to Thailand and Philippines within the current limitations, primarily to receive massage treatment which is unaffordable for me in Australia. I also find the cost of living more manageable in these countries and I am able to afford myself a few minor luxuries, such as the occasional restaurant meal. I am also able to afford domestic help a few times to a week to maintain my accommodation, as these duties are very painful for me in Australia, where help is not affordable.

I am a native born Australian and worked from aged 15 years to 60 years, when my injuries became too painful to engage in work. I do not live like a 'king' as suggested by lopsided media reports in Australian newspapers - these false media reports do nothing to accurately portray the life of a genuine DSP recipient,

In addition, many DSP recipients over the years, who have been sufferers of severe injuries over years, have formed relationships and families. They will be torn from their loved ones due to this draconian proposed legislation.

I urge the Committee to reject the proposed changes, as I can see severe hardship being placed on many genuine DSP recipients.

Yours faithfully,