

Submission to

Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (2014 Budget Measures No. 1) Bill 2014

Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (2014 Budget Measures No. 2) Bill 2014

More particular to the DSP reviews of the further restrictions placed on Disability Pension travels from 6 weeks to 4 weeks once a year.

I would like the Committee to carefully consider the above legislation before they submit to the Senate and pass the legislation.

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is [REDACTED], and has been on Centerlink for most of my teenage/adult life, because the Government of the day has failed to keep my health in check, just recently I have won the right of Indefinite Portability under the new rules.

It has taken me about 10 years to win this fight. The constant health checks, means constant trips back and forth between GPs, Hospitals, and specialists when I was younger. Since birth I have been in and out of Hospitals, using up the systems, when they could have been used for other people.

My other issues are patellar dislocation, short term memory, PCD/VCD repaired, and hole in the heart repaired at 6 months, and there is probably a few other issues such as tonsils removed, when I was younger, doctors put me in a cast, since then, when I also was younger, the doctors recommended that I have an operation on my right knee, when I was older, this didn't eventuate and later in life we saw more doctors who advised against the move.

I have been having problems with my legs since the cast, and since I have to use both legs to support my right knee, they now starting to put more pressure on my left leg (as well as my right leg), so I had to see the specialists this past couple of years.

A couple of years ago, I was injured in a recent Work for the Dole program in the past couple of years; this caused me to have a look at Disability Pension, since I nearly broke my leg. With not getting anywhere with the help I was provided with by Centerlink and the Job Networks, I left the Job networks to pursue my own interests as that time I had enough of both trying to certificates so I one day get a job, and Job Networks that are not using the resources properly enough to get me in the job, when I received the Disability Pension, I was sent to a Disability Job Network, they didn't help, fast forwarding to current, I am now currently on Disability Pension.

Being able to travel to overseas to another country is something I can understand, removing or restricting I cannot.

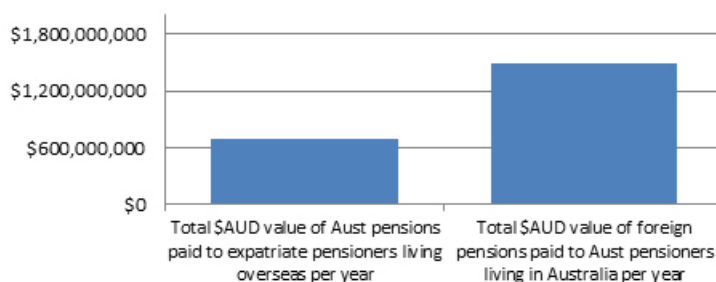
Thousands of people, who are on Disability Support Pension, for reasons of their own, would like to spend as much time as possible overseas. They may have better support facilities there, which can provide better or cheaper services than what Australia can provide. They may have family who live overseas.

We are prisoners, hostages in our own country; it is inhuman and human abuse to refuse to allow those who wish to live overseas for extended periods of time with their limited functions.

We know it is cheaper for the government to allow Pensioners (DSP/AGE) to move overseas. <http://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/international/policy/portability-of-australian-income-support-payments>

Yearly expenditure on Australia's pension payments to recipients of Australian income support payments living overseas amounts to \$692 million (June 2012). At the same time, pensions from overseas being paid to Australian pensioners residing in Australia totalled \$1,484 million (June 2012). This represents a significant inflow of funds into Australia, an increase in disposable income for pensioners and a saving for Australian taxpayers. This is shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Total AUD Value of Pensions
June 2012**



Before applying for Indefinite Portability, I went overseas to help relieve stress of my parents and my 2 brothers to regain some health, while overseas, I was able to socialise and regain *some* health, normally at home, unable to afford to socialise, due to being naturally expensive in Australia.

With this legislation and other welfare cuts, you are hurting my family's financials in already a difficult economic time; Budgets should be used for increasing your economy, not shrinking it.

I have been reading upon the situation in the UK regarding their welfare system and their implantation of Universal Credits, and tightening the rules regarding things like travel, and claims, from the reports I've read it seems the UK Government is denying that they have a massive problem with the new changes.

And it has gone as far as attacking their own publicly owned broadcaster [BBC] for announcing the issues, we rather not go down this path especially at the attacking the disabled, It's a distressing to read to think it might come to Australia.

Thank You,