

From:
To: [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Date: Sunday, 29 June 2014 9:00:41 PM

Dear Senators

In the matter of: Social Services and other legislation Amendment (2014 Budget measures No1)

Bill 2014 and Social Services and other legislation Amendment (2014 Budget measures No2)

I am a Disability Pensioner with multiple disabilities 1) Ischemic Heart Disease 2) Spinal Stenosis at three levels 3) Depressive Anxiety. I wish to place on record my opposition to most if not all of the proposals contained in the aforementioned legislation, In particular I would like to draw your attention to the budget proposal that will limit the travel of DSP recipients overseas from 6 weeks multiple trips per year to 4 weeks

in any 12 month period. Let me make one thing very clear not all pensioners are what the general media refer to as (FIFO's) fly in fly out when they are in bashing mode and painting everyone with the one brush.

This legislation is grossly unfair and will affect the most vulnerable those pensioners with families.

I'm 58 years old with a wife and daughter to support in the Philippines, it is obvious these changes have not been given too much thought with families in mind and the effect of these draconian changes. I recall how happy Mr. Hockey was to see his son after 3 weeks absence dancing around his office, not that there is anything wrong with that he is a family man also the same as me, but we are both proud Australians and should have the same privileges the right to see our families without any restrictions being placed upon us. Senators if adopted these new laws will place at risk not only my family but many others, it has the potential to stunt their growth both physically and mentally, and place them at unnecessary risk of poverty, malnutrition, lack of appropriate housing with proper sanitary facilities and little or no healthcare and many other dangers too numerous to mention.

I will draw your attention to Article 18 of the United nations charter on human rights for people with disabilities which states, Governments shall recognize the rights of people with disabilities to freedom of movement ,and are free to leave any country including their own. 18 d) Are not deprived arbitrarily or on the basis of the right to enter their own country.

United nations on the rights of Children Article 5)

Governments shall respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their children so that they grow up to learn to use their rights properly and respect those of others.

Article 9) Children should not be separated from their parents unless its for their own good, Example Mistreating or neglecting a child.

Article 10) Families who live in different countries shall be allowed to move between those countries so that their parents can stay in contact or get back together as a family, and provide love and guidance as required.

Senators what we are talking about here are young Australians born overseas to their parent, I ask do they not have the right to protection the same as any other child born in Australia I should think so. If these changes are passed by the Senate they will strike at the very heart of our society the family unit. Families will be decimated and left to fend for themselves, the consequences are unthinkable.

People with Mental health issues are also targeted in this Budget. Once again the writer believes we are on a collision course for disaster taking these very fragile people off the DSP and placing them with case managers, the health system is already at breaking point so placing 200,000 plus on Nostart is not a very bright idea. This will only exacerbate matters as a high proportion have stress related disorders which will get worse as time goes by coping with rejection being stigmatized by employers and society in general, at least the pension is a safety net for them it gives the some independence to live in the community and not at home.

I am a former Psychiatric Nurse and have seen some very sad cases in my time, yes some do need case management day after day but there is no specific cure or magic pill that will solve it. Sadly I believe mental health is about maintenance most of the people who I've seen are treated in hospital when discharged they go back into the community feeling good compliance with medication is not 100% and we there have it what we call it the revolving door the cycle starts again sad but true, we can only try and help as the mind is very complex and I'm not sure anyone understands it including Psychiatrists. I had a brother with paranoid schizophrenia and I asked him one day how he was feeling, his reply stunned me, he said what was going on in his head would make world war 3 look like Looney tunes. Sadly Thomas passed away due to non compliance and an epileptic fit. Most people have a co-morbidity/Dual diagnoses which affect their overall wellbeing so I would respectfully suggest be very careful with this more harm than good can be done very easily, you have to treat them Holistically body mind and soul!!!

The proposal to deny young people under 30 access to nostart is fraught with dangers also while some will argue that before you have access to benefits you must contribute first fine!!! But the damage is already done some young people have families already commitments like food accommodation etc if they are taken out of the system all hell will break loose. Some will turn to crime to provide to provide for their families. Others as I have seen may already have an addiction like drugs and alcohol a nice little cocktail for disaster . I don't mean to paint a bad picture of young people not at all some are very nice and pose no threat but the evidence is irrefutable I've seen it with my own eyes this legislation poses a great risk to our society increased crime burgeoning jails \$20,000 on DSP or \$50,000+++ for incarceration take your pick, oops another budget blowout.

I respectfully request members from both sides to consider very carefully the ramifications of these amendments and after due consideration reject them in their entirety. If not we may have a situation where another stolen generation has been created.(I wonder who will give an apology next time after all the lives have been destroyed)

Yours Sincerely