

**From:** O'Brien, Ray  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 June 2009  
**To:** Economics, Committee (SEN)  
**Subject:** Expate Tax

To the Senate Committee

Dear Members

As an Australian working overseas I feel the need to express my complete displeasure with the Rudd Governments idea of taxing off shore workers.

Firstly our money earned overseas is paid directly back into our Australian accounts which are then spent in our country helping our economy.

Instead of ripping off hard working Australians that endure time away from their loved ones, living in poor facilities and standards, nothing like we have when at home, trying to give their families a better life, work overseas, miss out on seeing their families for lengthy periods, and actually help the country by bringing in to Australia money from overseas countries and spending it in Australia. Money that would not be brought into this country, if not for the expat.

How many people from different nationalities work in Australia and send Aussie dollars overseas, instead of spending it in the country to benefit us? Here is a large group of people that are professionals in their fields, and have spent most of their lives building a career, work overseas and now will have to return home (if that's what we'd like to call it anymore!) to somewhere where there isn't enough work for us!!

We are actually Ambassadors for our country, we are professionals at our work and in so, work overseas, promoting the skill level of Australians, then bring our hard earned cash home to lift our economy. Are leaders really that stupid that by hitting Expat workers with the ridiculous taxes they aim to do, that they cannot foresee the outcome? Overseas companies and Aussie companies with overseas contracts will not hire Aussies because to make it worth our while to work over there we will have to charge exorbitant rates to cover our Governments rip-off scheme.

I work for a mining company overseas, who at this stage are just starting to ramp up and head towards production. Once they hit full operation they were looking at hiring up to 80 Australians, now, as soon as they heard of our governments scheme they are going to look elsewhere to fill the positions.

All of a sudden we have, No work for Aussies overseas so they all come home where there is no work here for us, get on the dole and instead of bringing money into the country we join the queue of people bleeding the country.

OK there may be a very small minority out there that is using it for tax avoidance but it is definitely not the majority of hard working expats. We use none of the Aussie infrastructure, as we are away for very long periods, bring cash into the country and pay GST on everything we spend.

I and my colleagues have always been proud to be an Australian and let people overseas, who comment on how hard we work, know that we are Aussies. But that is fading fast. Are we to just denounce our country and take our families overseas, or does someone out there

involved in running the country have half a brain to see what the outcome will be and stop this ridiculous proposal before it is finalized.

It would be of no use putting this out there for the average working Australian to vote on because without having worked away they would have no idea of what we are talking about. The conditions we live while working are always of poor standard, would you like another person who has worked the last 12 hours wait for you to vacate the room so he can go to sleep in the same bed as I have just woken from. I bet not or have a French cook yell at you for not wanting to eat the raw meat he has prepared, stating "this is how we eat it here" while he drips sweat onto my plate I am to eat from.

This is just a small idea of what a lot of us hard working Aussies endure to enable our families to have a lifestyle we as Australians should be entitled to.

As my contract nears its end I shall return to look for work in Australia to which I know for certain there is no work in the field of my expertise, shall I join the Dole queue - no sir not until I have spent every last cent of money I have saved!! Before I'm entitled to apply for that.

Mr. Rudd to save money for our country there are ways to cut expenditure, the one I favor the most is to bring our Australian troops home from Afghanistan and stop fighting the Americans oil wars for them. How many of our young men fighting a war that has nothing to do with us come home in a box, how much is that worth Mr. Rudd.

In closing I wish to say how different the ALP today is compared to the ALP of 10 plus years ago when its prime focus was for the worker. Now it seems the total integrity of your party has been lost Mr. Rudd, maybe you could look back at the parties' constitution and compare it to what you are doing to your public today.

I will assure you Mr. Rudd you will not be getting my vote again if these changes are implemented.

Regards,

*Ray O'brien*