

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

**Schedule 2 of the Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous
Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment
(Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2010
(Changes to Disability Support Pension)**

SUBMISSION

SUBMISSION NUMBER: 10

SUBMITTER

Name and Address Withheld

I'd like the Committee to consider the following while they are examining the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2010 which will give Centrelink the right to remove residency from Australian citizens, in this case Disability Support Pensioners, who spend too much time out side of Australia.

Thousands of Australian Disability Support Pension recipients, for reasons of their own, like to spend as much time as possible overseas.

They may have families there, they may find it cheaper than to struggle on the pension in Australia or they may just be exercising their right as a free Australian citizen to come and go as they please. Please don't take this right off them. There is no value to the Government in making these people a prisoner in their own country.

This will be an expensive exercise, most of the pensioners staying overseas can not claim rent allowance, phone allowance or pharmaceutical allowance a total of around five thousand dollars a year. They buy their prescription drugs over the counter without benefit of concessions and use local doctors, freeing up the Australian public health system

As a part of my disability I only have one eye and now slowly going blind in the other eye. Where I stay overseas I can afford to get a lady to clean my Apartment and do my laundry twice a week and also afford to get a massage to help with my neck and arm injuries twice a week. If I was forced to return to Australia my medication alone would cost the Australian Tax payer in excess of \$400. a month, plus rental assistance plus all the other concessions. So please tell me how my forced return to Australia would save the Australian Government any money

While living here I can live a reasonable life with some Dignity. If I was to return to Australia I would be forced to live as a squatter.

This will not save the Australian Government any money.