

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Social Services Portfolio
2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 374

Topic: DSP Portability

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

The time recipients are allowed to travel overseas and continue to receive the payment will be reduced from six weeks to four weeks.

- (a) How many people will be affected by this measure?
- (b) During some legislative reform changes in the recent past, the government argued that the period should be reduced to six weeks to bring it into line with the overseas travel periods permitted in other cases. Are overseas travel periods being reduced to four weeks in other legislation, or only in this one?
- (c) If people travel abroad for health reasons has the department considered the cost on the Australian health system if they remained in Australia for treatment?

Answer:

- (a) It is estimated that about 2,000 will stay overseas for more than four weeks each year and will need to reapply for pension on return to Australia.
- (b) No.
- (c) No.