

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 436

Topic: Protection Visa Holders

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Michaelia Cash asked:

Should a person return to the country from which they claim to have fled persecution, are they entitled to continue to receive Australian Government benefits during this time?

Answer:

Generally a person is eligible for social security payments if they are an Australian citizen, or hold a permanent resident visa (including the permanent visas given to refugees) and reside in Australia and meet the payment eligibility criteria. Most social security payments are portable and payable overseas for a 13 week period only; except for Australian Age Pension which can be paid overseas indefinitely, but may be proportionalised after 26 weeks depending on the persons Australian Working Life Residence.