

Mr. Darren Chester  
Member for Gippsland  
36 MacArthur Street  
Sale 3850  
Victoria

23 May 2009

Sir,

**Reference: Proposed Changes to Section 23AG Income Tax Assessment Act 1936.  
Personal Income Tax (PIT) – Australian Residents Foreign Earning Exemption**

It has come to mine and a great number of my foreign income earning colleagues, that there is a proposed change to **Section 23AG Income Tax Assessment Act 1936**.

I am currently employed in West Africa and claim income tax exemption under that section. If this Section is changed, it will, I believe, have an adverse effect on the economy of Australia. Not only will my disposable income be affected dramatically but so will the disposable income of all of my colleagues who work outside of Australia. I am sure that the combined incomes that are currently being circulated into the economy provide more "value added" to the Australian Economy than if we are forced to pay full PIT. For the Government to hand out billions of tax payers dollars and then turn around and penalize those workers who make the effort to travel to all corners of the world to earn an income that not only provides a comfortable life style for their families, but also provides an excellent means of foreign income coming into Australia to me is nonsensical. I am working to become less of a burden on the economy in my years of retirement by becoming a Self Funded retiree as I am sure are the majority of my colleagues. I feel that great number of those offshore employees will either,

1. Decide to leave Australia and become non residents or
2. They will quit their overseas employment and return home to live.

In the current economic climate with unemployment levels a popular topic of conversation, I would have thought that the government would be trying to avoid that scenario (point 2.) as this has the potential to add a further financial burden to the Australian Taxpayer through additional unemployment benefits being paid out, but it appears the common sense is not going to prevail.

I call on you to vote against any changes to **Section 23AG Income Tax Assessment Act 1936. Personal Income Tax (PIT) and instead look for other means to encourage other Australians to seek work overseas whilst still remaining a citizen of our great country as per one of my colleagues suggestions.**

I and along with my many hundreds of colleagues look forward to your support and the support of your Parliamentary colleagues.

My Thanks and Regards

Bruce Chapman Melrose