

Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2009
To: Economics, Committee (SEN)

Dear Madam / Sir

I along with many other Australian Expatriates are very disillusioned with this proposed change to the Tax Laws Amendment (2009 Budget Measures No.1) Bill 2009 whereby the money I will earn overseas will be taxed when I bring it back into Australia.

I / we Expats are prepared to work in remote areas of the globe, with poor services and uncomfortable conditions not to mention the arduous travel involved to get to often politically unstable and or dangerous locations. Once finally on the site we are regularly accommodated in extremely poor conditions, where a phone call back to my wife is considered a luxury for 28 days or 6 weeks at a time, food is poor quality and regularly hot bed (you get out of bed and someone changes sheets and they get in) and also share a small room / shower and toilet with 3 other men of mixed nationalities. I honestly believe most Australians would not consider these conditions or quality of life as an alternative, nor should they have to but I believe the ones who are willing to do so should not be penalized and discouraged. There should be some reward for this and up until the proposed changes to the current legislation on 1st July 09 the reward was the extra pay in you hand as these jobs are quite often paid at the same rate of less than the Australian Jobs but made worthwhile by the reduced Tax component.

I am not earning the money in Australia, I pay taxes to the country I am working in, I am not taking a job back in Aus, especially when jobs back home are becoming harder to find particularly for those unwilling to work away, I am however bringing this hard earned (already taxed money) back into Australia to put into our economy. I am spending that money back home and I am stimulating growth by spending this money in Australia.

I pay my taxes for any income earned in Australia. Including tax on the interest on the money earned overseas at top marginal rate. I am not happy with the taxation proposal and feel very strongly that it is grossly unfair. We are 'easy targets' for this governments legislation and I personally will not continue working away enduring the hardships if it's not worth it financially or take the other alternative and take my money back into a country that will not retax me, i.e... most Asian countries..

I expect that I would be able to return to Australia and get work, thereby displacing a younger and less experience guy out of a Job but can see no benefit for any party in forcing this upon us..

I think the Australian government should actually thank the expat workers, rather than penalize them. If you have ever been to the Philippines you will have seen the big signs saying "Thank You Oil Rig Workers and Sea Farer's, you are helping our country" on the entrance to the Airport

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my letter, please consider my statements for all of our futures.

Yours Sincerely
Brett Harms