

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am an Australian expatriate working in the offshore exploration industry. Sir/Madam, contrary to popular belief that we are exempt from tax, I would like to share with you some very important facts:

1) We pay taxes to the country in which we are working and that can mean 3 or 4 countries per year.

I can see huge complications occurring here.

2) We are away from our families for long periods of time (I personally have two boys, 9 & 12 YO). Sometimes when I have completed up to 36 hours of work without sleep in one of the most dangerous environments known to man, that being well control and working at heights in the derrick where a slip could be your last, I ring my family at home and unbeknown to my boys I have tears rolling down my cheeks whilst talking to them. The only advantage we had to get ahead in life is now being taken from us. Why?

3) Sir, we have 22 Ausy's here on this offshore installation. We all got together yesterday and had a meeting to discuss the new tax laws. Out of that meeting and many emails around the world, I can safely say that the people that have children who have left home and the single people WILL be moving to live and bank overseas. Based on the numbers that we put together yesterday, out of 163 Australian persons connecting on our oil workers forum, we estimate Australia will miss out on foreign income in the vicinity of 3 to 3.5 Billion American Dollars per annum.

3) Due to the only advantage of working away being removed, I personally will return to Australian residency as I have been promised my old position back with my previous employer in Australia which is foreign owned and imports American made mining equipment. Unfortunately I will be back to helping increase Australia's overseas deficit.

4) Due to my family's current budget and the lack of transition period provided by the 23AG tax changes, we will be selling some of our assets in a now depreciated market so as to meet the new requirements.

5) We will be expecting full Australian Government protection and benefits if:
a) We are taken by pirates as has just happened here with the workers on one of our supply vessels.
b) We become ill or injured in a foreign country Medicare will need to cover us.
c) Diplomatic immunity should be required during corrupt overseas government incarcerations.

NOTE:

Countries we work in include Nigeria and other African nations, South America, Asia etc.

Two of my friends were taken from a swamp drilling platform in Nigeria two years ago and can no longer work due to their mental state and are not covered by their company insurance.

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Last month I lost three UK friends in a helicopter crash in the North Sea.

As people that spend the majority (8 months) of our lives per year outside Australia, what return on our tax dollar investment are you offering us whilst working overseas?

6) It has also been estimated that effected families will cost the Current Government over 1 million votes.

Sir/Madam, as battling Ausy's working our ass's off away from home, helping our country's debt by spending in Australia and giving our children the best possible education and start in life, we are very disapointed in the implications that this will mean to the future of Australia.

Bruce Morris