

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my thoughts on the USA Tax Treaty, which I understand is currently under review.

As an Australian-USA dual citizen, I am very concerned about the tax obligations which USA imposes upon me. I would like for the tax obligation to be removed entirely.

I fail to understand why USA reserves any claim to tax my income or my assets. Everything I own and earn is Australian. America has made no contribution towards any of my money or assets and therefore should not impose tax.

Furthermore, USA has a policy of no taxation without representation. As a citizen abroad, I have no representation. I was born in Australia, so I cannot even ask for assistance from a representative from an area of USA previously resided in.

I have heard that USA taxes superannuation. Superannuation is earned in Australia and saved for an Australian retirement. Therefore, Australian superannuation has nothing to do with USA. Capital gains tax on all assets should be off limits to USA. My home was paid for with Australian money earned in my Australian job.

The services provided to my home are also Australian. USA has contributed nothing to this and therefore any taxation applied to the sale of my home is effectively theft. I consider it to be the same situation with any capital gain. If I sell art that I own, investments or any other thing that can increase in value, then these are also Australian and not American.

Therefore, no capital gains tax should ever be applied by USA. Businesses that are owned by a US person within Australia are Australian businesses and not American businesses. However, USA is applying business tax to these businesses. In some cases, the tax is made retroactive to 1986. Obviously, these business owners are paying a tax bill which is unbelievable.

This is unfair because USA has not contributed to these businesses. Also, even if no tax is imposed after filing tax, the cost of hiring a tax agent is very expensive. It is approximately AUD\$650 per tax year. This is an unfair cost on USA citizens abroad and it is to no benefit to us. However, the risk of an error on the tax is so severe that it is necessary to pay the tax agent fee in order to avoid the repercussions from the IRS.

The tax implications may be enough to ruin a person financially. As I said, this is all for a country we do not even live in. I am also aware that in some cases, USA gives out stimulus cheques and pensions to citizens abroad. It is worth noting that these benefits do not outweigh the cost of the tax obligations.

I would suggest that only US people who have lived and worked in US should be entitled to receive such benefits from US. Instead of filing taxes to USA, I suggest that it would be more efficient and more equitable for a US person to be obliged to complete a form stating that all of their income, investments and assets are non-US and 2 impose a requirement to disclose any US income, investments and assets as soon as these are obtained.

For this reason, it would also be necessary for the relevant forms and institutions to be easily accessible. I would suggest that the US embassy and consulates could be the point of contact for this. Thank you for requesting feedback on the proposed changes and for asking how these US tax laws are impacting US citizens abroad.

Please feel free to contact me for further comment or clarification should this be required.

Kind Regards,

Amy Purcell