



## 2015-16 Budget – Family Tax Benefit Part A – reduced portability

From 1 January 2016, subject to the passage of legislation, the period a person can normally be paid and continue to receive Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A outside Australia will be limited to six weeks. This is a reduction from 56 weeks. FTB recipients will still be able to take multiple overseas trips and retain FTB but each trip must be less than six weeks duration.

This measure will align the portability rules for FTB Part A with those of FTB Part B and most income support payments.

### What if you stay overseas for more than six weeks?

FTB recipients who stay overseas for more than six weeks will have their payment stopped.

FTB recipients who return to Australia within 13 weeks of their payment being stopped, may have their payment restored without the need for a new claim. However, FTB recipients will not be back paid for any period of overseas travel in excess of the six week portability period.

FTB recipients who remain outside Australia for more than 13 weeks will have their payment cancelled. A person would need to return to Australia and make a new claim for FTB.

In limited circumstances FTB may be payable beyond the 6 week portability limit where recipients are:

- prevented from returning to Australia because of an unexpected event. These reasons include the death of a family member of the person or a serious accident involving the person or a family member of the person overseas and the person cannot return within the portability period for reasons beyond their control; or
- members of the Australian Defence Force or the Australian Federal Police who are deployed overseas; or
- receiving financial assistance under the Australian Government's Medical Treatment Overseas Programme.

### Transitional arrangements – Departure before 1 January 2015

FTB recipients who temporarily leave Australia before 1 January 2016 and remain overseas can be paid under the previous 56 week portability rules for that trip.

### What to do if you are planning to be overseas for longer than six weeks.

Due to FTB's links to other payments, this measure may affect eligibility for other payments including Child Care Benefit, Child Care Rebate, Double Orphan Pension, Schoolkids Bonus and Single Income Family Supplement. For more information visit [www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/outside-australia](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/outside-australia).