

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment
(Cashless Debit Card) Bill 2017

Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities Question No: 2

Topic: [Cashless Debit Card Trial Evaluation Final Report]

Hansard page: 72

Senator Watt asked:

Was a draft provided to the Minister or the minister's office?

Answer:

Yes – in accordance with departmental practices.

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Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities Question No: 3

Topic: [Cashless Debit Card Trial Evaluation Final Report]

Hansard page: 72

Senator Watt asked:

Similarly, assuming a draft was provided, do you know whether the Minister or his office provided feedback either directly to ORIMA or through you?

If there is any written feedback from the Minister or his Office, I would be interested in getting that tabled as well.

Answer:

The Department did not receive feedback from the Minister or his Office; and no feedback was provided by Minister Tudge or his Office directly to ORIMA.

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Outcome Number: Outcome 2.1

Question No: 8

Topic: Meeting with Indue Ltd prior to engagement

Hansard page: 74

Senator WATT asked:

Did you meet or talk to Indue prior to the first engagement with them to provide the card?

Answer:

The engagement of Indue and the contractual negotiations took place in accordance the Commonwealth Procurement Rules. The Department received independent probity advice that the procurement process was conducted in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules, relevant legislation, policies and probity principles. As part of the procurement process, Departmental representatives met with Indue representatives to negotiate contracts prior to Indue's engagement as the card provider of the Cashless Debit Card program.

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Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities Question No: 11

Topic: [Cashless Debit Card Trial Evaluation Final Report]

Hansard page: 72

Senator Kakoschke-Moore asked:

What safeguards were put in place in the first two sites to ensure that people, when they were self-reporting, were not being led down leading questions in both the initial conditions and the other—

In the interests of time, perhaps you can provide to the committee on notice what those safeguards were around self-reporting.

Answer:

The Cashless Debit Card Trial Evaluation Final Report references the safeguards employed including details of:

- Bellberry Limited’s Human Research Ethics Committee ethics approval for the CDCT Evaluation, which included the Evaluation Framework and all instruments including surveys;
- the project was conducted in accordance with International Quality Standard ISO 20252 and the Privacy Principles contained in the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth);
- surveys were conducted by the ORIMA’s Indigenous Fieldforce, consisting of trained Indigenous interviewers supported by other experienced researcher interviewers and some local Indigenous people in support roles – to ensure data collection was conducted in a culturally appropriate and sensitive manner; and
- interviewers were trained to remain impartial and free from judgement when conducting interviews and respondents were also assured that their responses would remain confidential.