

From: [Hardiman, Cheryl \(SEN\)](#)
To: [Community Affairs, Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: FW: Support of the Cashless Debit Card for Hinkler
Date: Wednesday, 11 July 2018 1:44:00 PM

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 11 July 2018 1:41 PM
To: SeniorClerk, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Support of the Cashless Debit Card for Hinkler

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in support of the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Cashless Debit Card Trial Expansion) Bill 2018 because of the below reasons:

- While the money is the same amount it is just being given out differently;
- I truly believe that it may help people save money and change their dietary habits;
- It will reduce the amount of money circulating in the cash economy which a lot of drug dealers operate in.

While working as a Property Manager in Bundaberg, at one stage I came into contact with two sets of tenants from the Northern Territory who had been in the region where the Basics Card operated.

Both tenants had stated that they found the card handy with regards to money management and one had saved money using the card which he saved towards a better car and the other had lost weight while under the card; simply because it stopped her drinking excessively high sugar alcoholic drinks. They both reported they had reduced their drinking consumption, had lost weight and felt healthier.

Both tenants had a partner who was indigenous and they found it a good experience. Both these tenants had good track records in paying their rent and you could see they could manage their money well.

The only thing I would like the government to provide in relation to the roll out of this trial is to fund a drug rehabilitation centre in Bundaberg. The IWC - already have a farm where specialist programs could run in Bundaberg to help them get off their ICE addiction.

It was interesting that both tenants, who I had contact with, as stated above, reiterated they were lucky because they only drank a bit, but stated the ones who had hard drug addiction, really needed specialist drug rehab and retraining to make their lives benefit on the card, otherwise they will still find ways to get their drugs.

David Batt MP, LNP member for Bundaberg has been really pushing hard for a drug rehabilitation unit for the Bundaberg Wide Bay Region because as a police officer, he has seen the dire effects of drugs on families and the cycle of poverty and neglect on children and also the harm ICE addicts do to first responders like paramedics, the police and staff at the Emergency Department at the Bundaberg Base Hospital.

Overall, I think it will be a positive for the community especially if it is rolled out with a drug rehabilitation unit.

Regards,

Relief Motel Manager