

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Public Hearing – 14 October 2019 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee inquiry into Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Income Management to Cashless Debit Card Transition) Bill 2019 - Written Question

Question reference number: SQ19-000433

Senator: Rachel Siewert

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 04 November 2019

Question:

In relation to the Northern Territory's transition to a cashless debit card (CDC) trial site, could the department confirm that:

- participants currently subject to income management (IM) will continue to have the same proportion of their income restricted when transitioned to the CDC (50 per cent or 70 per cent); and
- participants who were not subject to IM will have 80 per cent of their income restricted?

Answer:

The Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Income Management to Cashless Debit Card Transition) Bill 2019 provides that the restricted rate for participants in the Northern Territory is set by the subsection under which they are placed onto the Cashless Debit Card. This means participants placed onto the Cashless Debit Card under subsections 124PGE(1) or (3) will have a restricted rate of 50 per cent, while participants placed on the Cashless Debit Card under 124PGE(2) by a referral from a recognised territory authority, such as a child protection officer will have a restricted rate of 70 per cent.