



Perth, 6 November 2017

Committee Secretary
Community Affairs Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Senate Inquiry – Social Services Legislation Amendment (Cashless Debit Card) Bill 2017

Dear Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you last week. We will provide answers to questions taken on notice shortly. In the interim, we would like to clarify the Foundation's position regarding the methodology used by ORIMA during its evaluations of the Cashless Debit Card (CDC).

The Minderoo Foundation recognise that ORIMA is Australia's largest provider of research, evaluation and data services to Government, and are an independent, external organisation. Given this, we believe their findings are less biased than if the evaluation was done in house by the Government itself or by an interested party with its own natural bias. We believe that this should lend credibility to findings within the final ORIMA evaluation.

We would also like to note that ORIMA's statistical modelling and weighting was done within industry standards and is accepted methodology for extrapolating findings from a sample to the population size. Nevertheless, we recognise that some have criticised the methodology used. We do not believe the evaluation is perfect, particularly given the environment, and we support ongoing evaluation (such as long-term follow-up and evaluation in new sites going forward) to ensure credibility and evidence of impact.

While the initial evaluation only had two waves of data, we believe that findings clearly demonstrate positive impact from the CDC, which was corroborated after seven separate visits by Minderoo Foundation employees to trial sites throughout its duration. We also believe it is worth focusing on what is working and enlarging that across the trial sites. Some impact is better than no impact through business as usual, which we know is not working.

With kind regards,

Matthew O'Sullivan
Chief Operating Officer
GenerationOne

Bruce Mansfield
Special Adviser
GenerationOne

Appendices:

A. Answers to Questions Taken on Notice

APPENDIX A – ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE

“...does the Minderoo Foundation employ any first nations people? If so, how many and in what roles?”¹

The Minderoo Foundation employs five Aboriginal people. Roles are varied but include our Director of Employment Programs (VTEC), Director of Community Engagement, Executive Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer, and other support positions.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (CDP)

“Does Minderoo have concerns about the CDP? Are you aware, for example, of people being removed from the cashless card because they’re breaching the Community Development Program?”²

Creating Parity – The Forrest Review makes recommendations in relation to the CDP which the Government has partially implemented.³ The Minderoo Foundation urges the Government to fully implement these related recommendations. We are also aware of the information contained in ORIMA’s Final Evaluation, but have not received any direct reports from community members regarding this issue.⁴

INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP

“Can you provide further details about that group on notice?”⁵

The Minderoo Foundation’s Cashless Debit Card Industry Working Group includes representatives from:

ALDI	Australia Post	Australian Payments Network
Coles	Commonwealth Bank	Department of Social Services ⁶
eftpos Australia Limited	Heritage Bank	iA6
Indue	Ingenico	Minderoo Foundation
PayPal	PC EFTPOS	Smartpay
Systemware	The Initiatives Group	Visa
Woolworths		

The group has also received inputs from National Australia Bank and ANZ Bank representatives, and is planning to provide the final report to Government in late November, or early December. Given this, we are not able to provide the Committee with a copy prior to the release of its inquiry reporting date on 13 November 2017. If requested, we can provide the Committee with a copy of the report after it has been handed to Government.

TRIAL SITE VISITS

“...could you tell me how many trips have been undertaken and how many politicians you’ve taken up to various trial sites?”⁷

“I’d like you to name them...”⁸

The Minderoo Foundation has not paid expenses for any politician to visit CDC trial sites. However, representatives from the Foundation have accompanied Mr Ben Morton MP, Senator Skye Kakoschke-Moore, and Senator Jacqui Lambie to CDC trial sites on two separate occasions.

¹ Commonwealth, *Parliamentary Debates*, Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, 2 November 2017, 51–2 (Sue Lines).

² Ibid.

³ Andrew Forrest, *Creating Parity – The Forrest Review* (Commonwealth of Australia, 2014) 190–221.

⁴ ORIMA Research, *Cashless Debit Card Trial – Final Evaluation Report* (Department of Social Services, 2017) 91.

⁵ Commonwealth, above n 1, 53 (Rachel Siewert).

⁶ Note, representatives from the Department have acted as observers.

⁷ Commonwealth, above n 1, 59 (Rachel Siewert)

⁸ Ibid 59 (Sue Lines).