

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 223

Topic: Playford Income Management Trial

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Edwards asked:

"Once placed on income management will people be able to remove themselves from the scheme?"

If so what will they have to do to achieve this?

Can those that voluntarily choose income management choose to come off of it?"

Answer:

The decision to remove a person from Child Protection or Vulnerable Income Management must be made by a child protection worker or a Department of Human Services social worker, i.e. the person who made the referral. The child protection workers and social workers are able to reassess the persons income management arrangements at any time. For example, this could be done where the persons situation has improved and the circumstances that triggered the initial referral are considered to have been addressed. The person is also able to ask for a reconsideration of the decision and has access to review and appeal mechanisms.

Once a person signs a Voluntary Income Management (VIM) agreement they are required to stay on VIM for at least 13 weeks. A person can cease VIM at any time after 13 weeks of participating.

All people participating in income management will be offered a referral to free Financial Management Support services. The child protection worker and social worker will also make referrals to appropriate parenting services and other support services. Income Management, when coupled with Financial Management Support services and other supports such as the Communities for Children program, will assist the most vulnerable people in these sites to stabilise and improve their circumstances.