

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

**Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013**

**Question:** E13-197

**OUTCOME:** 0 – Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Evaluation of Income Management

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 21, 5 June 2013

**Senator:** Siewert

**Question:**

- a) When did the AIHW complete its work evaluating the outcomes of income management?
- b) What are the top-line outcomes?
- c) Has the AIHW taken on any more work as part of the ongoing evaluation of income management? Does the AIHW have any role, or any evaluation, looking at place-based income management outside of the Northern Territory?
- d) Did the report that COAG has just reviewed include AIHW evaluation work related to the National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes?
- e) Is the AIHW doing any work around the health and welfare of single parents coping with the changes in the income managements system, and their families?

**Answer:**

- a) The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) completed its work evaluating the outcomes of income management in December 2009. The final report was released by the then Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs as a FaHCSIA report on 15 December 2009. Details of the report are: AIHW (2010). *Occasional paper No. 34: Evaluation of income management in the Northern Territory*. Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. (Viewed at: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about-fahcsia/publications-articles/research-publications/occasional-paper-series/number-34-evaluation-of-income-management-in-the-northern-territory> on 10 July 2013).
- b) The evaluation consisted of two main data sources: a client survey that collected quantitative data during face-to-face interviews with 76 income management clients in four locations; and focus groups that collected qualitative data from 167 stakeholders. The stakeholders included community representatives from the same four locations and community sector and government employees from a wider range of locations. Top-line outcomes follow.

- The data show that there had been improvements in child wellbeing since the introduction of income management. Of the 52 clients interviewed who were parents, over half (30) reported that their children were eating more, 27 that their children weighed more and 25 that their children were healthier (Table 22 of the report).
- Three-quarters (55) of the 76 clients interviewed reported spending more on food (Table 16). Half (37 clients) were buying more fruit and vegetables (Table 17).
- Clients reported that there was less gambling (31), less drinking and alcohol abuse (28) and less 'humbugging', meaning less harassment for money (25) (Table 23).
- Just over half of the clients interviewed (41), reported that the payment of rent had been easier since they had been on income management. About half (38 clients) reported that the payment of other bills had been easier.
- One-third of clients (24) reported purchasing big or expensive items and nearly four in 10 clients (29) reported saving money (Table 21).

c) No.

d) No.

e) No.