

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 213

Topic: Place-based Income Management Trial Sites

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Cash asked:

1. Is the Department aware that Child Protection workers represented by the PSA in New South Wales have placed an official ban on the implementation of income management?
2. Is the Minister aware that these workers have placed a ban on the implementation of income management in the relevant trial sites?
3. Has the Minister or Minister's office met with any members of the PSA in New South Wales to discuss their ban on the implementation of income management? If not, why not?
4. What action or response has the Department undertaken in relation to those PSA workers who are refusing to enforce income management? If not, why not?
5. What action or response has the Minister or Minister's office undertaken in relation to PSA workers who are refusing to enforce income management?

Answer:

1. The New South Wales Government advised the Department that union members may make referrals to the child protection measure where a family is at risk and income management would greatly benefit them.
2. The Department is not in a position to advise what the Minister is or is not aware of.
3. The Department is not in a position to advise whether the Minister or Minister's office (sic) has or has not met with any PSA members.
4. The Department has no authority to take action against employees of another government.
5. The Department is not in a position to advise whether the Minister or Minister's office (sic) has or has not taken action in relation to this issue.