

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: 225

Topic: New Categories of Income Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Why have you decided to target young people? Who have you consulted about this policy? Is there support from any community organisations that work with young people at risk?

Answer:

The changes introduced on 1 July 2013, respond to findings in recent evaluations, including the finding of the Evaluating New Income Management in the Northern Territory: First Evaluation Report which found that the Vulnerable Measure is an appropriate tool for people who have difficulty managing their finances or are subject to financial harassment.

Young people in receipt of Special Benefit (under 16), the Unable to Live at Home rate of payment or who are leaving prison are clearly at risk and vulnerable, and will have limited experience meeting costs of living. The policy changes to the Vulnerable Measure of Income Management provide extra support to young people so that they are better able to manage their finances and ensure that they prioritise expenditure on the essentials of life.

FaHCSIA and the Department of Human Services have been engaging with community organisations across a range of service areas including youth services, supported accommodation, legal services, money management and financial counselling, and other government stakeholders. In relation to young people at risk, there has been positive feedback on these changes from community organisations delivering youth services.