

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities

Question No: SQ15-000730

Topic: Income Management

Hansard page: CA50, 4 June 2015

Senator Moore, Claire asked:

Can I get the breakdown of funding for this year, from previous years, against those elements that have been changed?

Answer:

In the 2014 Budget \$101 million was provided to continue income management for one year for all sites except place-based income management sites (funding for this measure was \$26.2 million). The total funding included Department of Human Services based remote servicing and funding for the financial wellbeing and capability programme. As a comparison to the funding in 2015 Budget, the total cost for all income management measures would have been \$255 million over two years.

In the 2015 Budget \$146.7 million is provided for a two year streamlined continuation of all income management measures currently operating across Australia. Department of Human Services based remote servicing and funding for the financial wellbeing and capability programme are funded separately, \$46.5 million and \$25.6 million over two years respectively.

The streamlined continuation of income management yielded a modest budget saving of approximately \$36 million over two years mainly through the redesigning of the income management programme. The approximate savings (over two years) are broken down against the following elements:

- the removal of vulnerable social worker assessments (\$4 million);
- removal of incentive payments (\$6 million); and
- administrative changes relating to less Department of Human Services contact with income management customers and efficiencies through the alignment of funding for all income management locations (\$26 million).