

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**  
**Inquiry into Welfare Reform and Reinstatement of the Racial Discrimination Act**  
**Canberra Hearing, Thursday 4 February 2010**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Question No: WR6**

**Topic:** Evidence that relates to single parents and vulnerability

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**Senator Siewert** asked:

Can you provide some of the evidence that you have been talking about that relates, for example, to single parents and vulnerability?

**Answer:**

The Government's position in relation to the evidence used in the development of the new scheme of income management is included in the "Policy Statement: Landmark Reform to the Welfare system, Reinstatement of the Racial Discrimination Act and Strengthening of the Northern Territory Emergency Response", page 9:

"The Government has chosen these target groups based on their need for support due to their high risk of social isolation and disengagement, poor financial literacy, and participation in risky behaviours. Youth who are not earning or learning and are relying entirely on income support, are more likely to become entrenched in welfare dependency. The long-term unemployed who are on income support are especially disadvantaged in relation to physical and mental health, and levels of literacy and numeracy. It is also more likely that there will be poor outcomes for children growing up in these circumstances, particularly for school attendance and educational attainment.

The categories are designed to reach people the Government considers are most in need of income management and extend no further than necessary."