

Members of the senate committee,

How can parliament justify withholding ANY percentage of a social security entitlement from an Australian citizen who can demonstrate that he or she has used previous payments responsibly? What kind of message will we give such a person by denying him or her the right to financial independence? Clearly, there are some Australian citizens who have abused their entitlements in the past. They are the people that may require monitoring and finance-managing until they are ready to change, NOT responsible ones. A blanket rule may be administratively simpler for the government (yet outrageously inefficient in using taxpayer dollars, from what I have learned), but it's unfair, demoralising and patently unethical. I urge you to bring commonsense to the table as you finalise considerations on amendments to the NT Intervention Act. One size should NOT fit all.

Respectfully yours

Max Merckenschlager