



Submission to Senate Enquiry – January 2016 Social Security Amendment (CDP) Bill 2015

MEP's goals are the same as the Government's goals: to use a compliance framework that fosters individual responsibility and individual accountability, and which works in conjunction with existing measures to engage welfare recipients to develop their own economic independence.

MEP is very supportive of the aspirations that the Minister hopes to achieve with the passing of the Social Security Amendment (CDP) Bill 2015. Since mid-2013 MEP has highlighted the shortcomings of the current jobseeker compliance framework: in particular its slow, opaque, complicated and non-proportional nature. Without a doubt, speed in administering financial penalties, transparency in how/why financial penalties are applied, simplicity in mutual obligation requirements, and proportionality of financial penalty to the relevant act of non-compliance are all vital for an effective and efficient jobseeker compliance framework.

Having said this, the proposed legislation vests important policy-making powers into the Minister's hands. Whilst we understand that there are limits upon Ministerial power MEP has some concerns about the regulation powers:

We feel there that there could be a further reference in the proposed legislation that the regulations drafted by the Minister be made in consultation and collaboration with both communities and service providers.

With clearer wording in respect to the instrument-making powers inherent in the Bill, and the need for community and stakeholder consultation, MEP supports the passing of the Social Security Amendment (CDP) Bill 2015 and supports the aspirations that the Minister has indicated in his proposition of the bill.

Regards,

Jeremy Kee (Chief Executive Officer)

'Setting our eyes on a strong future for all East Arnhemland People'

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