



MEDIA RELEASE

Inquiry into compulsory income management

In September 2023, the committee was given the function (under section 243AA of the *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999*) of reviewing compulsory enhanced income management and compulsory income management (collectively referred to as 'compulsory income management') for compatibility with human rights and reporting to the Parliament.

The committee must complete its first review by **4 September 2024**.

The committee invites submissions, by **5 May 2024**, as to the compatibility of compulsory income management with human rights, and in particular:

- whether compulsory income management has been effective in achieving its stated aims;
- whether compulsory income management has caused, or contributed to, beneficial and/or detrimental outcomes;
- the nature of any consultation undertaken with affected communities and groups in relation to the operation of compulsory income management;
- how in practice income management has been applied, including how individual exemptions from compulsory income management have been considered;
- the practical operation of the BasicsCard and SmartCard, particularly in remote communities; and
- the extent to which compulsorily restricting the spending of welfare payments is consistent with international human rights law, particularly the rights to social security, an adequate standard of living, equality and non-discrimination, a private life, and the rights of the child.

Committee Chair, Mr Josh Burns MP said:

"Measures restricting how welfare recipients spend their social security payments have been around for almost 17 years.

This committee has regularly found that compulsory income management engages numerous human rights.

This inquiry will allow us to seek evidence regarding the compatibility of this scheme with human rights and advise Parliament accordingly."

Important information about making submissions and details for the public hearings is available on the committee's inquiry [webpage](#).

28 March 2024

For further information: Please visit the committee's [website](#) or contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 3823 or by email to human.rights@aph.gov.au.