

Joint Committee on Human Rights

Public Hearing – 5 July 2024

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Consultation with Community

Question reference number: IQ24-000081

Question asked by: Lidia Thorpe

Type of Question: Written. **Hansard Page/s:** N/A

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2024

Question:

24. In its submission, DSS provided evidence of consultations with the community regarding 'service provision through a transition scheme. Were respondents asked about the services they require access to generally, without being tied to the coercive element of compulsory income management?

a. Can you please provide a copy of the questions being used in the consultations, describe the format of these questionnaires, and explain how participants are recruited?

b. Were people given the option of completely voluntary programs and having no IM at all, having properly funded public services untied to people's mechanisms of survival, like the rest of the people of this country enjoy?

c. Were alternatives to income management the subject of consultations with community considering they know best what they need, and what will work?

d. What are you doing to empower First Nations communities to conduct their own research and community-led consultations and decision making about how services should be delivered independent of government, in line with the top priorities of the Closing the Gap agreement?

Answer:

The Department of Social Services is consulting with communities and stakeholders including state and territory governments on the future of Income Management. Please refer to SQ24-000584 for more information on consultation activity, including how First Nations organisation, ETM Perspectives are facilitating consultations in partnership with committees and stakeholders.