

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights

Public Hearing – 29 July 2024

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Inquiry into Compulsory Income Management

Question reference number: IQ24-000152

Question asked by: Lidia Thorpe

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

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 05 August 2024

Question:

3. Forced income management has had a devastating effect on people. For 17 years successive governments have ignored the voices of the community and of those calling for change. Some just want a good banking system, free banking service. What other options have been explored?

Answer:

The Department continues to consult with communities and stakeholders on the future of Income Management. Please refer to SQ24-000584 for more information on the Departments comprehensive consultation efforts.

The Department of Social Services continues to work directly with communities in the former CDC regions to identify and fund support services tailored to local needs and delivered through responsive funding arrangements.

The Government continues to fund a suite of local support services to assist people on income management. The package of support seeks to improve community services and address social issues in the area. A comprehensive list of support services by locations is available on <https://www.dss.gov.au/families-and-children-programs-services-welfare-reform-enhanced-income-management/support-services>.