

# 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:** IQ24-000150

**Question asked by:** Lidia Thorpe

**Type of Question:** Written.      **Hansard Page/s:** TBA

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

### **Question:**

1. There is a substantial body of peer-reviewed research and government-commissioned evaluations which show that any form of non-voluntary income management is incredibly harmful, increases financial hardship, contravenes human rights, is highly discriminatory against First Peoples, and has no positive impact. Does the Department accept this body of evidence?

### **Answer:**

The Australian Government has commissioned multiple evaluations and reviews into Income Management (IM) programs. A full list of these evaluations is at [www.dss.gov.au/families-and-children-programmes-serviceswelfare-conditionality-income-management/income-management-evaluations](http://www.dss.gov.au/families-and-children-programmes-serviceswelfare-conditionality-income-management/income-management-evaluations). These evaluations and reviews have provided mixed evidence as to the outcomes from IM programs.

The department is undertaking extensive consultations on the future of IM, in line with the Government's commitment to reform IM, and end broad-based compulsory measures. Please refer to SQ24-000584 for more detail on consultation activity, including how First Nations organisation, ETM Perspectives is facilitating consultation with communities and other stakeholders.