

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs

PO BOX 6100

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

14 July 2018

Dear Sirs

This Bill should be passed through the Senate to ensure that the taxpayer funded welfare payments to recipients under 36 years of age and on Newstart use this money in the manner for which it was intended, namely as a financial safety net while they are out of work and not earning.

I am in full support of the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Cashless Debit Card Trial Expansion) Bill 2018.

I have been a citizen of Australia for seventy-one years (my age). Over that time I have witnessed the increasing proportion of our young people unemployed and aimlessly drifting toward alcohol, drug, tobacco abuse and gambling. I have seen this development first-hand as a secondary school teacher and a volunteer for "Drug Arm."

I have read the reports on the effect of trials of the Cashless Debit Card in Ceduna and Kununurra in Western Australia. The evidence of both areas is that grocery sales are up and alcohol sales are down. Alcoholism, domestic violence, ambulance call-outs and school truancy are all down. There has been a substantial increase in the number of people seeking financial counselling.

Ceduna Mayor Allan Smith said "This is the best thing we've ever had."

Every responsible taxpayer wants to be assured that the welfare they are funding for our young people will benefit them and the community they are meant to serve. Too many of our young people have not yet developed that sense of responsibility; I believe that restriction of 80% of the Cashless Debit Card's funds for the purchase of healthy essentials is a massive step in the right direction.

These young adults are our country's future. The passage of this Bill will greatly benefit us all.