



17 November 2023

Committee Secretariat
Community Affairs References Committee
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Parliament House
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Dear Secretariat

RE: Social Security (Administration) (Enhanced Income Management Regimes) Determination 2023

Minderoo Foundation commends the ongoing consultation on income management and is pleased to make this submission.

Minderoo Foundation regards income management as one important intervention to interrupt vulnerability and disadvantage – for children in particular – created by alcohol and drug misuse and problem gambling of some income support recipients.

Minderoo Foundation is concerned that the negative aftermath of the withdrawal of mandatory participation in the Cashless Debit Card program prevails. While Federal Government funding has been directed to these communities, vulnerable women, children and families are experiencing increasing disadvantage while much-promised wrap around supports are developed and mobilised. This is the unacceptable cost of a hasty transition.

Minderoo Foundation has long advocated for the rights of women and children disadvantaged by the effects of alcohol and drug misuse and problem gambling and our enduring focus is on fighting for a fairer future. This starts with ensuring children and young people can thrive.

With regards to the future of income management, Minderoo Foundation advocates for:

- Genuine and ongoing consultation informing the Commonwealth's approach to funding and contracting for former CDC communities that explicitly considers the needs of children and young people.
- Community-led decision-making holds the power to direct resources toward solutions that best address their needs with regard to income management policy and wrap around services.
- A focus on the rights of children exposed to harm when income support is not used to appropriately support a healthy and safe environment.



- Consideration be given to the medium to longer-term needs of these communities to ensure commitment remains beyond the current term of politics.

Yours faithfully,

John Hartman,
CEO
Minderoo Foundation

ABOUT MINDEROO FOUNDATION

Minderoo Foundation is a proudly Australian philanthropy that fights for a fairer future and seeks effective, scalable solutions to dismantle the systems that entrench inequality. We incubate ideas, advocate for change and accelerate impact. We uplift communities, advance gender and equality, protect the oceans and respond to emerging challenges