

Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Income Management and Cashless Welfare) Bill 2019

As someone in the Cashless Debit Card trial area of Hinkler, I am against this legislation to amend the *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999* to extend the cashless debit card trial in three sites, and the income management program in Cape York, to 30 June 2020.

This card has not been proven to work in any of the areas it has been trialled in and has actually caused an increase in crime, domestic violence, poverty and mental health problems including suicide and self-harm. Young Australians who had their whole lives in front of them lost all hope for the future, and took their own lives rather than have their human rights abused, and be locked into a life of unnecessary struggle and lifetime oppression and poverty on this card.

The neighbourhood I live in with my family has always been safe and we have never had a burglary or trespasser in the area in all the years we have lived here, until the cards started to be sent out. We have now had trespassers in our backyard and our fence was damaged in the process, which with being low income earners, we can't afford to repair the damage properly and our safe haven no longer feels safe.

Friends of mine have also reported break-ins and thefts in the suburb where they live (also in the Hinkler region) where previously the area was safe and everyone felt comfortable in their homes.

Not all of the 6700 trial participants have even received their cards so imagine what will happen when even more everyday Australians are segregated from their own communities and pushed to breaking point when they have no money to provide for their families, as necessary bill payments are rejected or rent payments come out but go missing, which has happened in trial areas numerous times already.

Indue legally can not be held accountable for any missing funds and they have refused to provide card holders with a statement to show where the missing funds have gone. The Government's own Orima Evaluation shows this card makes life worse for those already struggling to make ends meet. Not everyone is even capable of paying by card as every cent has to be spent wisely, and the day to day EFTPOS fees from each and every store they shop at all adds up, as well as each store has a minimum spend to even accept the card as payment.

No good can ever come from extending trial periods or adding in more trial areas. The only benefit for all Australian people would be to scrap this card altogether, and use the ridiculous amount it cost to implement it to improve free services for mental health, drug, alcohol, and gambling services across Australia, and provide incentives to stores to scrap their self-service machines and hire actual people which will create more jobs.