

INQUIRY INTO THE INTERGENERATIONAL WELFARE DEPENDENCE  
HEARING – 17 OCTOBER 2018  
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Place-based Approaches

**Question reference number:** (Question1)

**Question:** Could you expand on your Department's strategy with regard to place-based approaches to addressing entrenched disadvantage, in particular both the people and place aspects.

**Answer:**

Place-based approaches to disadvantage recognise that place is important in shaping people's lives and that communities can be active participants in achieving long-term, large-scale change. While person-based approaches are an important component of the response to all forms of disadvantage, place-based approaches are required when addressing complicated or complex problems where the disadvantage is concentrated and the characteristics of the place contribute to entrenched problems and/or intergenerational cycles of disadvantage.

The department is currently trialling place based approaches in ten communities to interrupt the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage that is concentrated in particular communities around Australia. While the department is leading this work on behalf of the Australian Government, the initiative is delivered through collaboration, co-investment and shared accountability and decision-making with state and territory governments, philanthropy, academics, social service sectors and, most importantly, with local communities.

Implementation is being progressed through three interdependent streams of work:

1. **National Strategy** – which includes a theory of change, evaluation and measurement framework, cost-benefit framework, governance framework [including financial governance] and practical implementation tools.
2. **Place-Based Collective Impact Collaboration Infrastructure** – which includes joint funding with the relevant state or territory government of a local project team [called the Backbone team] in ten demonstration communities, and embedded implementation support including data analysis, co-design facilitation, governance training and leadership development.
3. **Funding Reform** – redirecting funding, where possible, in each of the ten demonstration communities to high leverage activities identified in the local community plan.

## Select Committee on Intergenerational Welfare Dependence

### INQUIRY INTO INTERGENERATIONAL WELFARE DEPENDENCE 17 OCTOBER 2018 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Intergenerational Welfare Dependence

**Question reference number:** (Question 2)

**Senator:**

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 31 October 2018

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

With regard to community-led approaches to addressing entrenched disadvantage, do you have experience in measures to build the capacity of communities and/or in strengthening local governance arrangements?

**Answer:**

Further to the table of DSS Programs and Projects, provided to the Select Committee on Intergenerational Welfare Dependence prior to the 17 October 2018 hearing, the following activities have a particular focus on building community capacity and / or strengthening local governance arrangements:

- **Logan Together** (building community capacity and strengthening local governance)
- The **Strong and Resilient Communities** (SARC) program, **Settlement Grants** program (including Community Hubs) and **Humanitarian Settlement Program** (HSP) (building community capacity and strengthening local governance).
- **Communities for Children Facilitating Partners** (CfC FP) (building community capacity and strengthening local governance).
- **Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters** (HIPPY) (building parental capability and community capacity).
- **Intensive Family Support Service** (IFSS) (building parental capability).
- **Financial Wellbeing and Capability** (building financial capability)
- **Reconnect** (building community capacity to support young people).
- **Information Linkages and Capacity** building (ILC) program, administered by the NDIA (building community capacity).

**Select Committee on Intergenerational Welfare Dependence**

INQUIRY INTO INTERGENERATIONAL WELFARE DEPENDENCE—

17 OCTOBER 2018

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Cashless debit card

**Question reference number:** 3

**Senator:**

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 31 October 2018

**Number of pages:**

**Question:** What is your impression of how the cashless welfare card trials are progressing?

**Answer:**

The implementation of the cashless debit card (CDC) in the first three trial sites has been undertaken successfully. The first evaluation found that the CDC has had a “considerable positive impact” in the trial communities of the Ceduna region and the East Kimberley.

A second impact evaluation of the current three sites will be undertaken and is expected to be finalised in mid-2019.