

## J VRAKAS SUBMISSION

Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Via  
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17 DECEMBER 2022

SUBMISSION BY J VRAKAS  
AUSTRALIAN SOCIOLOGIST

### Terms of Reference

That the following matter be referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs for inquiry and report by 1 December 2022:

On 25, October 2022 the Senate agreed to a reporting extension for the following inquiry to the Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs for inquiry and report by 1 March 2023.

Community safety, support services and job opportunities in the Northern Territory, with particular reference to:

- (a) the preparation for the sun setting of the Stronger Futures legislation;
- (b) community safety and alcohol management;
- (c) job opportunities and Community Development Program reform;
- (d) justice reinvestment community services; and
- (e) any related matters.

### FORCED CASHLESS CARD SYSTEM/ SELF MANAGMENT RIGHTS/PENALTIES UPON VULNERABLE

Forcing cashless cards is a direct violation to the human rights of individuals to be treated equally as the rest of the citizens of the state.

Every person has a right to decide how they want to spend their income, no matter where it originates from . Government has no right whatsoever to dictate how a person should live . Government is for the people . Not people for the government. Citizens give up some natural rights so long as government respects their way of wanting to live.

Government should stop being authoritative and creating authoritative laws with the assistance of indigenous leaders. It is based on control mechanism, not well being of the individual. People are not robots and should not be treated as one through legislation and points systems.

Indigneous people have a personal connection to the land. Things happen in life, and computers just get in the way and create more stresses in society, especially for the indigenous communities.

Creating penalty points for job seekers and income recipients is already a disaster. Life is not like that. Specially for those experiencing disability, health issues,

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violence, broken down machines. Yet Services Australia think it is alright when clearly it is not. Life should not evolve around computers and points.

Stop creating a space to indigenous cashless cards, or basic cards, teach them to manage, not force them to manage using digital system that break down everyday. The card is simply created for the enterprises trying to sell it. That is the truth. We all know that digital breaks down all day every day and night.

There is nothing more reliant than cash payment and using cash. That is the fact and that is the truth. There is no denying this. In the past the cashless card system has failed and it still fails. And we know politicians have forced it upon its citizens and spread it into the social security legislation in other states.

There is no benefit from having these machines that break down every time. We know it happens in everything we use that is mechanic. Yet it is imposed upon people and communities. The robodebt is a classic example.

Children and mothers have suffered because of it, not being able to buy food for their children because the digital service is not operable when in times of need. Not being able to report to government because the digital is hard to use. For some the digital is harmful. I do not accept governments excuses that they are looking to seek advice from community leaders. When it is common sense that is lacking from institutions.

Using the basic card is claimed to deter domestic violence and reduces crime rates. That is a ridiculous notion. The way to reduce domestic violence is by banning all alcohol and drugs in the country. Which we all know is not going to happen.

All individual have a right to live at free will. Indigenous peoples have the same rights as any other person in Australia. So stop treating them as if they are not human. Indigenous leaders have no right to dictate how an aboriginal woman should live her life, or how she will spend money, nor does the government. The aboriginal woman should be and can decide for herself. All is needed is a support channel to assist with her requests. Not forced upon her.

There are better ways like providing for open opportunities, not based on fines or penalties or forced card and digital use. Suicidal rates will soar more because of the digital world that fails humanity. It is already happening and kept silent. I recommend, stay away from computers and staying close to nature and the old ways of doing things.

Fun programs that inspire and create innovation for all. When I state opportunities, I mean offers, not mandatory tasks, deemed as not respectful towards a person who has already given up some basic rights so government respects them.

J Vrakas  
Available for further consultation