

Aurukun Shire Council

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Aurukun QLD, 4892

Ph: 0740476700

Wednesday June 14th, 2017

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committee's on Community Affairs

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

Canberra, ACT 2600

Dear Committee members,

By Fax; 02562775829

The Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC) in Aurukun is helping many of our people who are still struggling with their families and with problems like drinking, gambling and violence. The parents who are on the BasicsCard are often parents of many of the kids that are not getting to school enough. With the BasicsCard in place the FRC is making sure those kids get a better chance. We know that with the BasicsCard there will be money for food for those kids in the house, and there will be some stability in the home that would otherwise not be there without the BasicsCard.

Our Local FRC Commissioners in Aurukun have been long-serving. They have been working very hard since the beginning of Welfare Reform to stand up for change. The Local FRC Commissioners are good at holding community members to account when they are not sending kids to school or when they fail to meet the other basic standards we expect. The Local Commissioners also really support people in Aurukun during the FRC conferences and by referring them to get the support they need to try and make important changes in their life. The Local Commissioners are in the best position to decide who really needs to go onto the BasicsCard. When they do use Income Management they are thinking of the kids growing up and making sure that they can grow up healthy, happy and safe.

The FRC must stay strong for our people. In Aurukun we have been down a hard road but we need to keep on going to make more positive changes. Having the authority of our own people and our own

Elders in the FRC is the right approach. It should be people from Aurukun that have the power to make decisions for this place. It is the FRC Commissioners who know how to help our own people.

The community is very proud of the positive changes that are being achieved in Aurukun, and the FRC is absolutely essential. After FRC conferencing we can see there are more kids going to school. We can't take this away. It would be taking away the futures of those kids when we have been working hard together to try and make the futures of those kids brighter.

Yours sincerely,

Derek Walpo

Mayor

Edgár Kerindun

Deputy Mayor

Ada Woollá

Councillor

Vera Koomeeta

Councillor

Doris Poonakmelya

Councillor