



HOPE VALE ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

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Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Sent by Email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the view of the Hope Vale Shire Council on the proposed extension of the Income Management to allow the Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC) to continue to operate after 30 June 2017.

In Hope Vale the FRC has done some very good work since 2008, especially in terms of school attendance and the other FRC triggers. The FRC and Cape York Welfare Reform have made big, transformational changes to our community and this is very clear to people that knew this place beforehand and now. While we have made some good progress we still have big challenges to face. We want to see school attendance go up further and we want to stop the child safety issues that are still too common.

In Hope Vale we want to keep up this good work with local people at the forefront leading any change because it is people from Hope Vale who know what we need to do here. The FRC is one of the very few things that gives our own people, through the FRC Local Commissioners, some real power and authority to help our community move forward. Income Management in Hope Vale is helping people who really do need help the most. It helps make sure that where a family is not coping and has problems there is still money set aside for the bills and for food. Income Management here is applied by the FRC carefully and it is not a blanket approach.

Most people in Hope Vale are supporting the FRC and the Hope Vale Shire Council's efforts to lead change here. Most people are working hard to make sure that in the future we are not dependent on government, and we kindly ask for your ongoing support in helping us to get there. The FRC and Income Management should stay until the people of Hope Vale say it is time to move on. The government should not take things away that are helping.

Yours Sincerely,

Greg Mclean
Mayor