

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights

Public Hearing – 29 July 2024

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Inquiry into Compulsory Income Management

Question reference number: IQ24-000155

Question asked by: Matt O'Sullivan

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:** 17

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 05 August 2024

Question:

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Do you have available information in relation to the ETM Perspective consultations on what percentage of the participants are on the enhanced income management versus the BasicsCard?

Mr Boneham: I'll have to check. We'd need to confirm that. I was on a number of these consultations, and we mainly focused in on the concept of income management. Some people did show me their card to say that they moved, and we did have brochures of all three cards, the BasicsCard, the SmartCard and the TCU Card. People sometimes would point to what card they were on. I'm not sure whether we took actual records of what that was. I'd be surprised. But there were people who said they were on the SmartCard as opposed to the BasicsCard.

Answer:

This level of detail was not captured as part of the consultations. However, as a broad indication, the number of participants at 1st March 2024 in the Northern Territory was approximately 17,800 on Income Management and 9,770 on enhanced Income Management.

Further detail of this point in time data is available at [Australian Government Income Management Program - Income Management Data Summary - March 2024 - data.gov.au](https://data.gov.au/dataset/australian-government-income-management-program-income-management-data-summary-march-2024)

The consultation approach sought views about the future of Income management, choice in electing to stay on a voluntary program and the types of support people may require if they transitioned off the program.

While some participants voluntarily advised what card they were using and gave feedback on the aspects of the cards they liked or disliked, statistics for each participant was not captured.