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Finance and Public Administration
Legislation Committee
Lodged via: online submission system

Social Security Legislation Amendment (Remote Engagement Program) Bill 2021 (Bill)

To the Committee

My Pathway is a social and economic development organisation that supports First Nations People and communities through employment programs, community projects and enterprise development. We have been a Community Development Programme (CDP) provider since its inception and partner with local Indigenous organisations to deliver services.

We recognise the changes to the Bill aim to support the success of pilot programs to inform the design of new remote employment approaches. We agree that a new supplementary payment may help to secure participation in trial activities intended to enable real and sustainable jobs.

The parameters of the payment should be carefully set to allow flexibility while ensuring it does not displace current workers or replace paid employment. Ideally, funding would support a broad range of activities that will test the most effective ways to assist participants into employment and help employers to recruit remote workforces locally.

We hope a limit of two years will incentivise participants to actively track towards an employment outcome. Its clear that limiting the payment aligns with the introduction of a new remote employment program, but it may also avoid a continued cycle of activity with no progress or goals.

We see significant benefits in conducting place-based trials or pilot projects to test the best possible solutions and welcome any future opportunities to contribute to the process.

Regards,

Paul Synnott
CEO My Pathway