

# Joint Committee on Human Rights

Public Hearing – 5 July 2024

## ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Income management

**Question reference number:** IQ24-000097

**Question asked by:** Lidia Thorpe

**Type of Question:** Written.      **Hansard Page/s:** N/A

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 26 July 2024

### **Question:**

1. Compulsory income management is a type of racist welfare quarantining system used almost exclusively on First Nations communities, first implemented during John Howard's NT Intervention.

a. Is it correct that Labor's 2021 policy platform stated if elected, the party would "not pursue any expansion of the cashless debit card or community wide income management without clear evidence of community benefit and informed community consent"?

b. Is it correct the former scheme was scrapped in September 2022, but replaced almost immediately with the "Smart Card" under an "enhanced" or "expanded" income management system?

### **Answer:**

Please refer to the response provided in SQ24-000580.