

Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs

Public Hearing – 22 January 2024

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Review on Income Management

Question reference number: IQ24-000008

Question asked by: Janet Rice

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:** 41-42

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 1 February 2024

Question:

Senator RICE: Just briefly, given we're out of time, and if it needs more of an answer you can take on notice, is that we've had concerns that these instruments basically simply continue the status quo of income management without adequate review, and in particular two examples where there's been no review into the appropriateness of continuing Northern Territory health as a recognised authority under enhanced income management and no review of the decision making principles for the vulnerable person determination. Was there any review of these instruments prior to them being tabled in Parliament?

Mr Burford: We might have to take that on notice, as you suggest, Senator, just to make sure I've got the history of that particular development correct.

Answer:

The content of instruments made for the purpose of enhanced Income Management (IM) mirror those that are in place for IM (BasicsCard) and make no changes to the policy parameters that underpin the program. The department is continuing to consult with individuals, communities, First Nations people, peak bodies and State and Territory representatives on the future of IM and enhanced IM. Government will make decisions about the future of the programs once this consultation is complete.