

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Social Services Portfolio**  
**2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 2**

**Question No: 566**

**Topic: Income Management**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Please provide the vulnerable youth trigger exclusions and what are they based on?

**Answer:**

A person may be excluded from the vulnerable measure of income management for a period of up to 12 months if they have been placed on the measure under the youth triggers and a Centrelink social worker determines that this measure is not appropriate, particularly if:

- a Centrelink social worker determines that this measure of income management would place the person's mental, physical or emotional wellbeing at risk (for example, if the person is not able to meaningfully engage in or comprehend the income management process or is experiencing serious instability in their housing or living situation and income management would affect their ability to direct funds to housing).
- the person is actively involved in employment or study, is applying appropriate resources to meet their relevant priority needs and has recently been receiving their relevant social security payment at a reduced rate (less than 25% of the base rate of payment within at least 4 of the last 6 fortnights).
- the person has been subject to the income management regime under the vulnerable welfare payment recipient measure for a period or periods totalling at least 12 months and;
  - the person has successfully engaged in a supportive mentoring, coaching or case management relationship that included a transition to independence and the Secretary is satisfied that the person is likely to continue doing so, or
  - the person has demonstrated the skills and ability to manage their money and to live independently and the Secretary is satisfied that the person is likely to continue doing so.

The exclusion criteria were jointly developed with Centrelink Social Workers, and based on their professional expertise.

This information can be found in the Social Security Policy Guide, which is available online at <http://guides.dss.gov.au/>. The information on the vulnerable youth trigger exclusion can be found at <http://guides.dss.gov.au/guide-social-security-law/11/4/2/40>.