

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2017-18 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities**

**Question No: SQ17-000457**

**Topic: Cashless Debit Card**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Skye Kakoschke-Moore asked:**

Has the Department done any modelling on how much it would cost per person to provide drug, alcohol or gambling rehabilitation support that would create an equivalent outcome to income management?

If not, why not?

If so, what were the results of the modelling?

**Answer:**

The Department cannot confirm whether the premise of the first part of the question is correct. The Evaluation of Cashless Debit Card Trial – Initial Conditions Report found that excessive alcohol consumption in particular was at a crisis point in communities prior to the introduction of the Cashless Debit Card. The Cashless Debit Card was introduced alongside significant funding to help Cashless Debit Card participants access alcohol, other drugs and gambling support services. The Australian Government has committed additional funding for support services of \$1 million in Ceduna and \$1.3 million in the East Kimberley.

The Cashless Debit Card Trial –Wave 1 Evaluation report found that reduction in alcohol consumption, gambling and use of drugs was largely driven by the impact of the Cashless Debit Card and not as a result of the additional funding provided for support services.