

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 70

Topic: Income management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What is the estimated unit cost of each type of income management scheme to be extended to the five regions, including and excluding the matched savings scheme, incentive payment, and financial management support services components?

Answer:

Income management is not costed per unit (per person) as the total costs also include establishment of costs including:

- establishment of wrap around support services such as Financial Management Support Services, which also benefit the broader community;
- support for merchants who accept income managed funds from customers;
- infrastructure, such as changes and enhancements to Centrelink systems.

While there are somewhat different referral pathways for each type of income management scheme – child protection, vulnerable, voluntary – the Centrelink servicing costs do not differ significantly. In addition, while the income management customer is the adult income support recipient, the chief beneficiaries of the policy are often their dependant children.