

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: 76

Topic: Income Management

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

What assessment criteria are used by state and territory child protection authorities to refer individuals/families to the income management trial? How are review processes determined?

Answer:

The assessment criteria used to refer a person to Child Protection Income Management (CPIM) and the processes to review such a decision are the responsibility of child protection authorities. Both the Department for Child Protection in WA (DCP) and Northern Territory Families and Children (NTFC) consider the following factors when making a decision to refer someone to CPIM:

- the best interests of the child/ren or young person;
- the manner in which Centrelink benefits are being used, and;
- the availability of additional support services such as financial management services.
- whether income management will improve the current circumstances;

Both DCP and NTFC have processes in place to ensure a fair and equitable review of the decision to apply income management may occur. All decisions made by Centrelink regarding income management may be reviewed through an Authorised Review Officer, the Social Security Appeals Tribunal and/or the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.