

**HAYWOOD, Lauren**

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**From:** BARFOED, Liz  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 September 2012 1:32 PM  
**To:** WEBSDANE, Mike  
**Subject:** FW: APY consultation notes [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**Security Classification:**  
 UNCLASSIFIED

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 Welfare Payments Reform Branch  
 s11C

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**From:** BARFOED, Liz  
**Sent:** Monday, 14 May 2012 1:31 PM  
**To:** DL - FAM - Welfare Payments Reform  
**Subject:** APY consultation notes [SEC=IN-CONFIDENCE]

s22 - irrelevant information

**General notes from consultations**

- The focus in most of the meetings was about the community councils getting control of money, in the context of the RPA and about needing jobs for the young kids
- The same group of men attended, and dominated, each of the consultations
- There is a strong view that income management is part of (or an extension of) the Intervention
- In Mimili and Fregon, women spoke briefly to say that income management could help, particularly with caring for children.

**Day One: Mimili 8 May 2012**Key themes

- People are worried about the kids
- The government isn't listening to people – they don't want an Intervention (note: Michael and Liz reiterated several times that this was not part of an Intervention)
- Income management could be good for young women with children

Summary

- s47F - personal privacy people without young kids don't want the BasicsCard – their kids are grownup and they use key cards to get food. They need these keycards so that they can travel
  - note: Liz explained that people can still travel and that many stores around Australia accept the BasicsCard, and people can talk to Centrelink about any planned travel.
  - Liz and Mike also explained that IM wouldn't be compulsory for people taking care of their kids unless they weren't doing the right thing.
- Liz talked about the Minister Macklin's concerns about the safety and health of the people and that she wanted us to come and ask you about your tight son income management.
- Liz explained VIM and the Social Worker referral option, and used the example of the mother of the 30 year old man with some intellectual disability, who saved his money to go drinking, leaving the mother with no money to help take care of him. He was put on the vulnerable income management measure. This example

seemed to resonate with people at the meeting – they asked if he had a ‘head injury’ and if income management had helped.

- <sup>s47F - personal privacy</sup> the BasicsCard could help with food, clothing and rent. <sup>s47F - personal privacy</sup> a lot of money is currently spent on grog, gunja and gambling. The kids want their mothers to buy food but mothers often have no money.
- The people at the meeting advised that we need to hold another meeting to talk with the young mothers / families, and grandparents, as these are mainly the people who would be impacted by income management.
- The problem of lump sum payments was also raised – people who get a large sum of money go to Mintabie to buy a car. Liz explained that lump sum payment are 100% income managed.
- The meeting closed with some of the community members saying that next time the government should pay for someone to round up the young people to attend the meeting.

## Day two: Fregon 9 May 2012

### Key themes

- There was a strong view that income management is part of an Intervention (even when it was explained that this is not the case, several men were still putting this view forward).
- <sup>s47F - personal privacy</sup> the Government should start with the little things (like the RPA), and that adding big things like income management to the consultations is confusing the issues. These big things should be talked about in a couple of years. The RPA and income management should not be talked about at the same time – it is confusing.
- Income management could help people look after their kids.

### Summary

- Liz began by emphasising that this is not about an Intervention, that we want to hear what you have to say, and that we will come back again to talk through the different options.
- Liz explained some of the benefits on income management and the BasicsCard, including helping people manage their money, and making it last the whole fortnight. She also explained the different ways to go onto income management, and that stores in the APY Lands already accept the BasicsCard. She also noted that you can travel with the BasicsCard.
- There was a question about how much money goes on the BasicsCard – Liz explained that half your money is income management, and of that, a certain amount can go on the BasicsCard and some towards rent, etc. Liz reiterated that people talk to Centrelink about expenses and where you want your money to go – Centrelink doesn’t just decide for you.
- Liz also explained the possibility of being able to ask a social worker to assess a family member for income management if you are worried about them.
- Liz gave the example of a lady in WA who was put on the child protection measure and was initially very angry about this – but after 3 weeks realised that she had enough money for food and that her money lasted the whole fortnight. After a year she was taken off the child protection measure and volunteered to go on the voluntary measure.
- <sup>s47F - personal privacy</sup> life is different to in the city, and that people can’t tell APY Lands residents what to do, city people have no business doing this. <sup>s47F</sup> why we have started talking about BasicsCard in the APY Lands and where it all started from (Liz advised the history of income management, including that it doesn’t only apply in remote communities any more. <sup>s47F - personal privacy</sup> challenged this idea saying that it does come from the Intervention. <sup>s47F - personal privacy</sup> people in the APY Lands don’t drink, there is no pub in the community.
- There was a question about what you can buy with the BasicsCard – Liz advised that you can buy anything except cigarettes, alcohol and lottery tickets.
- <sup>s47F - personal privacy</sup> income management will help a lot of our kids – there are kids standing around the store because their parents have gone drinking / on ganja. This will help us be able to look after them.
- Liz advised that if people weren’t comfortable talking in the big meeting, then they could talk to us afterwards.
- There were some women there who were on BasicsCard and didn’t understand all the fuss that the men were making. We think that they had kept their NT addresses to keep the BasicsCard. <sup>s47F - personal privacy</sup> (DHS) confirmed that this was most likely the case.

**Day three: Indulkana 10 May 2012**

Note: there was no specific discussion about income management at this meeting as the meeting was dominated by the same group of men, who focussed on talking about the RPA. The meeting had a difficult atmosphere. However, one point relevant to income management was that:

- One man said that they don't like the way the women's council is doing things for the communities, including talking about the children.

s22 - irrelevant information

Catherine Wright  
s11C

**Policy Section**  
**Welfare Payments Reform Branch**

*Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs*

Mimi's notes 08/05/12

## Key things

- people are worried about the kids
- the govt isn't listening - don't want an intervention
- IM could be good for young women w/ children

## Summary

Mike - most ppl who use these services volunteer

- ppl w/out young kids don't want BasicsCard - their kids are grownup + they use key cards to get food
- need keycards so they can travel (Liz explained that ppl can still travel - 1000s stores accept BC, ppl can also talk to Cilek).
- explained that IM <sup>won't</sup> ~~could~~ apply to ppl ~~not~~ taking care of their kids
- BasicsCard can help w/ food, clothing,

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rent

- lots is spent on grog, guja, gambling
  - kids want mum to buy food - mum has no money.
- Mike - reiterated this is not compulsory + not a NT-style intervention.

- need another inty w/ young women/families + grandparents

- Liz - explained CSW option - eg mother w/ 30 yo son drinking put on VAPR.

- problem w/ lump sums - go to Muntabie + buy car

- Liz explained lump sums 100% IM

→ next time should pay for someone to round up young ppl for inty.

Fregon 09/05/12

IM is part of an intervention. Community needs to be talked to about IM.

people need to run their own affairs, but happy to work w/ Fed + State Govt.

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start with little things - adding IM to RPA is confusing issues. Maybe in a couple of years talk about bigger things. shouldn't be talking about intervention.

s47F - personal privacy

Liz - understand confusing w/ lots of different concepts, we will come back again to see what I have to say

BC/IM = way to help ppl manage \$  
can help \$ last whole f/night.

one way to get on is volunteer (NT/NT)  
also staying in 5 PB locations.

WA 800 volunteers

store here accepts BC - you can buy there  
sort of things with it.

Q - how much \$ on BC

A -  $\frac{1}{2}$ . eg. \$1000/\$5000 or you can  
put 30% card, 20% rent.

if you volunteer, you have to  
talk to Clink about your expenses.  
You choose where your \$ goes,  
not Clink.

yesterday question at Miami re:  
transport.

BC can be used when traveling, can  
also talk to Clink.

want ppl to be as short as  
to learn to manage ~~the~~ B, then  
go off

via after 13 wks

others - after CP/CSW assessment.

Want to hear what you said so we  
can write to Macklin.

s47F - personal privacy

different life here, different ppl to city  
want their own thinking, someone can't  
tell them what to do. Like ppl

Mike - <sup>my im</sup> nothing to do w/ AT / Intervention

- to help young nurse w/ food, budgeting, saving.

in other locations  $\approx$  80% volunteer  
10-20% CP / VHPP.

this is what we're thinking about  
for APY.

Liz - If you can't talk in big mtg happy  
to listen to you after.

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- there ppl have been all around  
the world.

s47F - personal  
privacy

think it ~~did~~ does come from



Q - what can buy w/ BC

A - anything except cigarettes,  
alcohol + lottery tickets.

s47F - personal privacy

keep talking in community  
so when govt comes you can  
talk to them.

s47F - personal  
privacy

- thinks it will help a lot  
of our kids  
kids standing around store cause  
parents gone drinking / gaps.

This will help us be able to  
look after them.

Fregon - key themes / observations

• IM is part of the intervention [note that

10/05/12

Indukana

we don't like the way women's  
council is doing things for our  
community.

more talking = more wrong story

talking about the children - don't  
like NPY doing thing.