



Extension of the cashless debit card trial

2018 Budget

The cashless debit card supports vulnerable communities to reduce the effects of drugs, alcohol and gambling on the health and wellbeing of communities, families and children.

What was announced in the 2018 Budget?

The Government is extending the trial of the Cashless Debit Card program until 30 June 2019.

The program is currently operating in the following locations:

- Ceduna, South Australia
- East Kimberley, Western Australia
- Goldfields region, Western Australia.

The program has shown positive results in Ceduna and the East Kimberley with less drinking, gambling and drug use for those who reported they were drinking, gambling and using illegal drugs before the program commenced. At the end of the first trial year, the community leaders asked for the program to be extended.

Extension of the program will ensure these positive impacts can continue and will enable

additional time to examine the longer term benefits of the card in these trial locations.

Key facts

The cashless debit card is testing whether reducing the amount of cash available in a community will reduce overall harm caused by welfare fuelled alcohol, gambling and drug misuse.

The card looks and operates like a regular EFTPOS card; however it restricts the purchase of alcohol and gambling products and cannot be used to withdraw cash.

The card does not change the amount of welfare money people receive, it only changes the way they receive it:

- 20 per cent of their welfare payment into their usual bank account; and
- 80 per cent of their welfare payment onto their cashless debit card.

The card applies to all recipients of working age welfare payments in trial locations. Recipients of the Age Pension can volunteer for the program.

More information

For more information about this measure and other Department of Social Services' Budget

measures, visit the [Department of Social Services](http://dss.gov.au) website (dss.gov.au).

For information about the 2018 Budget, visit the [Australian Government Budget](http://budget.gov.au) website (budget.gov.au).